



Department
of Health

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Alasdair Murray
Chairman
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7th March 2017

Dear Alasdair,

Thank you for your letter of 10 February about the Macfarlane Trust reserves and the concerns you have about the allocations for 2017/18.

I understand your concerns, particularly during this time of uncertainty. As I explained in the review meeting, and restated in the meetings of 6 March 2017, we expect that the current schemes will continue in their current form until the end September 2017. We will continue to provide funding to the schemes until the new scheme administrator is established.

We are not currently in a position to confirm the funding allocation for 2017/18 as we are waiting for the Departmental budgets to be finalised. As soon as we are told, we will issue the allocation letters. I appreciate this is difficult in terms of timing and planning; as you know we are rarely able to confirm the allocations in advance of the financial year.

Our intention for the first and second quarters of 2017/18, leading up to end September 2017, is to provide the schemes with pro-rata allocations as far as possible at the same levels as currently. We are expecting the new scheme administrator to be fully operational in October 2017 and so we do not anticipate needing to provide the Alliance House bodies, including the Macfarlane Trust, with funding beyond that point. However, if timetables slip for any reason we will be in touch with you to discuss the impact of this.

In the meantime, at the annual review meeting we discussed the use of the Macfarlane reserves. In the meeting, as in your letter, you explained that the Macfarlane reserves have been used in previous years to supplement the funding from the Department. You have advised that you expect to draw further from the reserves in the next financial year, which is welcome, thank you.

I would advise that once the 2017 allocation for The Macfarlane Trust has been confirmed, you consider planning for the distribution of any remaining reserves by the end of this time period.

I hope this is of some help, though I appreciate it does not fully address your query. We will let you know the final allocation as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Ailsa Wight

Deputy Director - EPHPP