



NHS MANAGEMENT BOARD

Department of Health

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Telephone 01-210 5160

From the Chief Executive

D. K. Nichol, C.B.E.

Regional General Managers
District General Managers

General Managers of the Special
Health Authorities for the London
Postgraduate Teaching Hospitals
(for information)

EL(89)MB/59

22 March 1989

Dear General Manager

'WORKING FOR PATIENTS' - DELEGATING RESPONSIBILITIES IN REGIONS AND DISTRICTS

I am writing to let you know of the action we want you to put in hand to implement those paragraphs (2.7-2.11) of the White Paper which set out the Government's view of the respective roles of Regions, Districts and Units. As you know, the Management Board is charged with reviewing the provision of all regionally managed services, and RHAs are expected to satisfy themselves that DHAs have, wherever possible, delegated operational functions to their Units.

I am attaching as an annex to this letter guidance on the approach which the Board expects to be taken in the conduct of this exercise, together with a timetable for the different stages. "Broad brush" submissions from Regions, indicative of the main features of their proposals should be sent to me through your Regional Principal by 5 May. It would be helpful if these included some description of the approach being taken in organising for the Region's new responsibilities, as well as dealing with existing services. Fully worked up proposals are sought by 30 September. Districts are asked to report to their Regions by 30 September.

I agreed with RGMs at a recent meeting on the high priority of this exercise as an important step in equipping the service to deal with the new tasks facing it as a result of 'Working for Patients'.

Enquiries about this letter and its annex should be directed to Adrian Pollitt, Regional Liaison Division, who can be contacted on 01-210 5788 or 5704.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

DUNCAN NICHOL
Chief Executive

[This letter will be cancelled and deleted from the communications index on 31 March 1991]