

Gateway ref: 15152

SHA Chief Executives
PCT Chief Executives

06 December 2010

From the Chief Scientific Officer

Professor Sue Hill

PhD DSc CBiol FSB
Hon FRCP OBE

Department of Health
Room A205
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

Tel: 0207 210 5622

E-mail: sue.hill@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Colleague

HOME OXYGEN SERVICES

Further to my letter to you in August, I am now writing to advise that we have achieved a critical milestone in the Home Oxygen Service re-procurement. This is the stage where the NHS will take over responsibility for the selection and ongoing management of the Home Oxygen Service in each region.

In my last note, I informed you that we had issued an invitation to tender to pre-qualified bidders on 07 July 2010. Bids were received in September and working with colleagues from the NHS, they were evaluated and I am pleased to announce that all five bidders have been appointed to the National Framework. These are:

Air Liquide (Homecare) Limited
Air Products PLC
BOC Limited
Dolby Medical Home Respiratory Care Limited
Esteve Teijin Healthcare SL

We have invited the above suppliers and colleagues from the NHS to a 'Bidders Day' on Friday 10 December 2010 in London. The purpose of this event is for colleagues to meet and question all the suppliers and for them to present what they can bring to the region with a particular focus on quality and patient care. I am sure you will agree this as an important event and would encourage attendance from your region accordingly.

I had also mentioned that we intended to support the regions by including a pack of documents to assist in the call-off stage of the procurement. This pack has been delivered to your regional HOS Leads, and include templates for a transition project plan amongst other guidance documentation.

Although we continue to make progress we are now entering the key stages for the call off process. I trust your teams are taking the appropriate actions to ensure the re-procurement process is seamless to ensure continuity of care and oxygen supply for your patients.

Ministers are continuing to show an interest in the re-procurement of Home Oxygen. I would urge you to liaise with your region's Lead PCT Chief Executive to ensure that everyone in your region is prepared for the task ahead.

I have copied this letter to CSU Leads, HOS Regional Leads and SHA Respiratory Leads. For further information, please email HomeOxygenService@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the first part of the name.

PROFESSOR SUE HILL PhD DSc CBIOL FSB Hon FRCP OBE
Chief Scientific Officer, Department of Health