

7th October 2010

To: Chief Executives of all NHS Organisations

Dear Colleague

Gateway reference number: 14893

NATIONAL CAPABILITIES SURVEY 2010

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I am writing to thank you for your organisation's participation in the 2010 National Capabilities Survey. Once again, there was a 100% response rate from the NHS making the health sector the largest single contributor to the survey.

You should now be able to view your survey responses online. These will be presented in the context of your anonymous, aggregated peer group which will allow you to assess your relative strengths and weaknesses - Information about this will have been sent to your emergency planning officer by Cabinet Office.

The results of the survey will be used to inform national priorities for resilience work under the likes of the UK Resilience Capabilities Programme. The analysis of the survey findings within government is at an early stage but in many cases it is clear that there have been significant improvements since the last survey in 2008. However, there is always more that can be done to ensure the Health sector is truly prepared, both to respond effectively to challenging circumstances and to maintain its essential services when faced with the most severe disruption.

The Department will also be working to make better use of the NCS in the future and are currently discussing options with SHAs, CQC and Cabinet Office.

Thank you once again for contributing to this exercise.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Cobb'.

ANDY COBB

CNI and CONTEST Lead, Emergency Preparedness Division