

*Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS*

Gateway Ref: 14774

23 September 2010

Dear colleague,

Progressing to NHS Foundation Trust (FT) status

I am writing to seek your personal commitment and leadership in bringing your organisation to Foundation Trust status as quickly as possible.

The White Paper, “Liberating the NHS”, set out our intention to support all NHS Trusts to become Foundation Trusts within three years.

Our intention is to set free all NHS providers so that they can concentrate on improving health outcomes, be more responsive to patients, to innovate and be enterprising. We plan to do this by bringing all organisations to Foundation Trust status, and, subject to the outcome of consultation, extending FT freedoms and flexibilities via the forthcoming legislation.

It will not be an option for your organisation to remain an NHS Trust. We intend to bring all NHS providers under a single, common, independent regulatory function.

In bringing all NHS Trusts to FT status we will not be “lowering the bar”. This means that, for some NHS Trusts, there is a good deal of detailed work to be done in order to meet FT requirements within the required timescale. Certain aspects of work may require input from, and the support of, other parts of the system. The Department of Health and SHA colleagues will work together to support you.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to emphasise the importance I attach personally to this, and to seek your personal response. In consultation with your Chief Executive and Board, therefore, I would ask that you reply to me by 30 November 2010 to let me know what timetable you and your Board now intend to pursue, with your personal view of achievability, with

the milestones you adopt and what progress you will have expected to make within, respectively, twelve months and two years.

If there are specific requirements in order to sustain your timetable, now is the time to identify them, as this will be a response in relation to which you should expect to be held accountable.

Ian Dalton, Managing Director of Provider Development at the Department of Health, will write to your Chief Executive in parallel with this letter, expanding on the steps required in completing your Trust's journey to FT status.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Lansley CBE". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small "CBE" written in a smaller font to the right of the main name.

ANDREW LANSLEY CBE