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Jerry Cope
Chair
NHS Pay Review Body
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30 September 2016

Dear Mr Cope

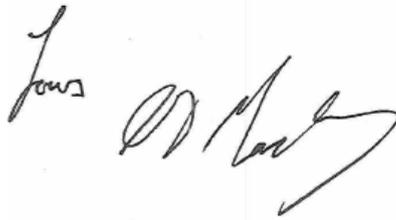
NHS Pay Review Body – Remit

On behalf of the Scottish Government, I would like to record our continuing appreciation of the work your review body undertakes to advise on pay and related matters each year. I am writing to confirm that we are again requesting that you consider the position of NHS Scotland staff covered by your review body and provide recommendations concerning their remuneration in 2017-18.

I would like to make you aware that details of our 2017-18 draft budget and accompanying Scottish public sector pay policy will not be published until after the UK Autumn Statement, and that this will impact on your deliberations. It is not yet clear what adjustments the UK Government might make to future public spending allocations, including to the Scottish Block settlement, and this will only become clear following the Autumn Statement on 23rd November. Given this uncertainty, that is why we intend publishing our draft budget for 2017-18 after the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. Following consultation with the Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee, the draft budget proposals and pay policy for 2017-18 will now be published in the week commencing the 12th of December. This means we will only be able to furnish you with our pay policy and the other evidence you consider as soon as we can after this date.

I recognise that such a late submission of evidence may pose particular challenges for you. I hope this does not stop you from starting your deliberations and possibly providing recommendations for the other 3 countries in advance of a later supplement for Scotland. I know staff working to my colleague, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, have been discussing arrangements with OME staff who support you and I hope these discussions can be continued to establish the best way forward in the circumstances.

I am copying this letter to my colleague, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, together with the Ministers covering the same portfolio in the other 3 countries, for their information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Mackay', written over a light grey grid background.

DEREK MACKAY