

*From the Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP
Secretary of State for Health*



Professor Sir John Bell
Academy of Medical Science
41 Portland Place
London
W1B 1QH

*Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS*

*Tel: 020 7210 3000
Mb-sofs@dh.gsi.gov.uk*

Dear John,

20 JUN 2011

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the key contribution that the Academy of Medical Sciences, its Fellows, and you personally have made to the listening exercise.

Your suggestions resonated strongly with both the NHS Future Forum and the Government, and were highly influential in shaping the overall direction of the subsequent changes to the legislation.

I know you saw the NHS Future Forum report and the initial Government response to it last week. I also know that you have publicly welcomed the commitments we made to ensure that research is at the core of the reformed NHS. Thank you.

Today, we have published a more detailed response, and you will find this on the Department's website.

You have made a particularly compelling case for the need to do more to embed the commitment to research within the legislation, and we agree that research is vital to drive the improvement of quality of care within the system. I announced last week that we would:

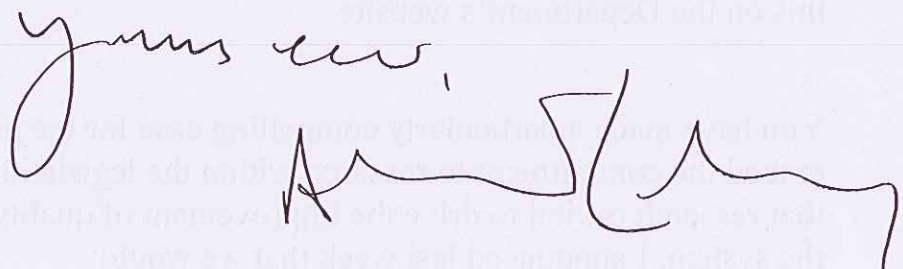
- include a new duty for the Secretary of State to promote research;
- create a new duty for clinical commissioning to promote research and innovation and the use of research evidence, in line with the current duty on the NHS Commissioning Board;

- ensure that a culture of research and innovation is embedded in the arrangements for both the Board and Public Health England; and
- make sure that clinical commissioning groups and the NHS Commissioning Board ensure that treatment costs for patients who are taking part in research funded by Government and Research Charity partner organisations are funded through normal arrangements for commissioning patient care, as set out in existing guidance.

The attached response shows how we intend to ensure that a culture of research and innovation is embedded in the arrangements for the new NHS Commissioning Board, clinical commissioning groups and Public Health England.

In particular, we will make sure that the systems and processes for commissioning used by the NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups ensure that research is promoted, supported and funded by the NHS. This will include the tariff, commissioning guidance and the processes for authorising and supporting development of clinical commissioning groups. We will also ensure that the systems and processes developed and used by Public Health England fully promote the conduct of research and the use of research evidence.

One of the most important lessons from the NHS Future Forum is the importance of working with stakeholders in a much more collaborative way, and I am committed to this as we move forward. I look forward to our continued discussions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Lansley', written in a cursive style.

ANDREW LANSLEY CBE