

DRAFT

Rob Thompson  
Patient & Public Involvement  
NHS Executive  
Quarry House  
Quarry Hill  
Leeds  
LS2 7UG

11 February 2002

Dear Rob

***Proposal for Provision of Additional Legal Advice for CHCs during Transition***

I would be grateful if you could give this proposal your urgent attention. We are seeking to ensure that we have the capacity to provide the appropriate level of assistance to CHCs with legal issues arising from the potential abolition of CHCs and transition to new structures. To do this, we are requesting funding of an additional £25,000 in 2002–2003. We will use this to build up a small list of expert advisers who we would commission to provide advice to CHC, Regional Associations, and where necessary, staff in strategic Health Authorities with responsibility for CHCs.

We anticipate that, in addition to the usual spread of legal advice provided as part of our service level agreement, we will be receiving a large number of enquiries on such matters as:

- matters relating to CHC membership, quorum etc
- advice about meeting statutory duties in the new environment
- complications caused by new structures working alongside CHCs, e.g. OSCs
- dealing with records from complaints work and other data
- dealing with leases, contracts etc and practical arrangements about 'closing down'

ACHCEW will select specialist advisers to work on a freelance basis, under the management of our legal services department who will also provide an induction and additional briefing as required.

Yours sincerely

Peter Walsh  
Director