

# South East Thames Regional Health Authority



Thrift House Collington Avenue Bexhill-on-Sea East Sussex TN39 3NQ  
Telephone Bexhill (0424) 730073 FAX 730249

Your reference

Our reference

Date

Admin/EJR

18th September 1987

R Lynn Esq  
West Lambeth Health Authority Joint Trades Union Committee  
Microbiology Department  
St Thomas' Hospital  
London SE1 7EH

Dear Mr Lynn

Thank you for your letter of 25th August 1987.

The RHA's discussions on DHA membership are held in confidence and it is not possible for me to give reasons for the appointment or non-appointment of individuals. However, I can assure you that the RHA weighs all the information presented and agrees appointments in accordance with statutory requirement and official guidance. In making the selections attention is paid to the specific needs and requirements in each district, and to giving continuity and stability to the work of a DHA.

There are a number of points I would like to make which I hope will help clarify the position regarding membership. Firstly, it is important to recognise that no member is appointed to represent a personal or sectional interest. Therefore a member appointed on the nomination of a trades union is not appointed to represent his union or staff bodies, or to pursue issues of a personal interest to him. He is appointed for the skills, knowledge and experience he can bring to the work of a DHA, and his role is to contribute constructively to this work.

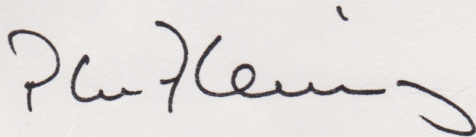
Secondly, as the appointing authority, the RHA requires a choice of at least two names for each vacancy. If a choice is not presented or if the nominations are considered unsuitable then the RHA can retain a vacancy on a DHA until alternative nominations are forthcoming. In addition neither the NHS Act 1977 nor any of the statutory regulations specifically require the appointment of a trades union nominee; therefore if suitable nominations are not forthcoming the RHA can appoint from among the generalists put forward. The RHA would prefer to avoid this latter course of action and always tries to appoint from among the names put forward by the TUC and MPG in accordance with DHSS guidance in Circular HC(81)6.

contd/...



A number of unions have written to me about membership and some have requested a meeting. Rather than agreeing to meeting union representatives individually I have arranged to meet with officials from the South East Regional Council of the TUC on 1st October 1987 in order to discuss membership matters in general. Therefore, if you have any general points to raise perhaps you would direct these through SERCTUC? I stress again, however, that I will not be able to comment on individual nominations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P H J Le Fleming'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

P H J Le Fleming  
Regional General Manager