

28 March 2006



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Executive of the NHS Staff Council

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Andrew Foster CBE
Director of Workforce

Dear Nigel and Mike

Review of unsocial hours payments

Thank you for your letter of 26 March alerting me to your review of the timelines in the project. I note your assessment of the current position with regard to collecting data and the delaying effect this will have on delivering the new system for implementation in October 2006.

I accept your analysis of the situation and, like you, I would prefer the harmonisation process be rigorously tested in order that we arrive at the right solution. To that end, I would agree with your request to delay implementation until April 2007. It is also important to bear in mind that any final agreement will need to be put to the new cross Government Public Sector Pay Committee that reports to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury before DH could finally sign it off.

It is reassuring to see continued partnership working on this very important element of Agenda for Change, and I look forward to seeing proposals within your new timeframe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Foster', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Andrew Foster
Director of Workforce