

Chief Scientist Office
Scottish Government Health Directorates
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

By email: csodraftresearchstrategy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

30 September 2014

RE: Scottish Government Health Research Strategy and request for a meeting with Professor Andrew Morris

To Whom It May Concern,

The Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) is a membership organisation of the leading medical and health charities funding research in the UK. Working with our members, we aim to support the sector's effectiveness and advance medical research by developing best practice, improving public dialogue about research and science, and influencing government to ensure the best research can go ahead and be translated into new treatments.

Medical research charities exist because the public choose to donate their money to support research to develop new treatments and cures. In 2013, AMRC members invested £1.3 billion in health research in the UK. Scotland received 13% of this charitable funding despite representing only 8% of the UK's population. This is a reflection of Scotland's specialism in biomedical research and the work of the Chief Scientist Office (CSO) to deliver its previous strategy, *Investing in Research, Improving Health*.

In May 2013, AMRC published *Our Vision for Research in the NHS*¹ - a vision for an NHS that not only works closely with the research community but fosters, conducts and takes up research itself to improve patient care. As such, we welcome CSO's publication of the Scottish Government Health Research Strategy and strongly support its aims and objectives which are in line with those outlined in *Our Vision*.

In light of the recent independence referendum and potential further devolution for the Scottish Government we do not consider now an appropriate time to comment in detail on the Health Research Strategy. However, we are aware of some difficulties which our members face when funding research in Scotland. As AMRC's newly appointed CEO, I would be delighted to meet with Professor Andrew Morris to discuss these and to explore how we can work together to ensure our members can continue to take advantage of the considerable research infrastructure and expertise available in Scotland. I would be grateful if you could liaise with my office to find a suitable time for us to meet in Edinburgh.

Yours faithfully,



Aisling Burnand
Chief Executive
Email: ceoffice@amrc.org.uk

¹ A Vision for Research in the NHS, AMRC, May 2013 -

http://www.amrc.org.uk/sites/default/files/doc_lib/Our%20vision%20for%20research%20in%20the%20NHS.pdf

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