

STATEMENT – Wednesday 9th January 2008

The Academy's response to The Tooke Report.

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges welcomes Sir John Tooke's Final Report of the independent inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers

The Final Report of the Inquiry recommends that a new body should be created in England to ensure a coherent approach to medical education. This body, NHS Medical Education England, would relate to a greatly strengthened medical workforce advisory machinery, it would hold the overall budget for postgraduate medical education and it would act as a professional interface between policy development and implementation in matters germane to postgraduate medical education and training. It would promote national cohesion in England whilst facilitating local responsiveness. It would work with equivalent bodies in the Devolved Administrations to facilitate UK wide collaboration. We agree with the Inquiry Panel that the establishment of such a body is of fundamental importance to the future excellence of medical education.

Professor Dame Carol Black, Chair of the Academy said, "The Inquiry opened up issues of great concern to all who believe that excellence should be the hallmark of postgraduate medical education and training in the United Kingdom. The Inquiry Panel has made comprehensive recommendations to address those issues. The recommendations command the support of the profession and the task that lies ahead is to ensure that they are implemented as a matter of urgency.

"In particular, we believe that establishing NHS Medical Education England would be a significant step towards restoring trust between the profession and Government. The Academy along with other professional bodies and partners will be pressing the Dept of Health to take Sir John Tooke's advice and set up the body at the earliest opportunity."

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The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges co-ordinates the work of the Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties