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22 June 2012

Dear Professor Grant

**Non-Executive membership of the NHS Commissioning Board Authority**

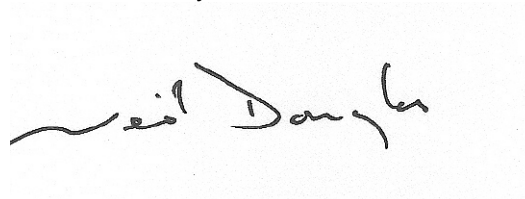
I am writing on behalf of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and all its member organisations to express our intense surprise and disappointment to see that none of the non-executive directors appointed to the Board has a medical or clinical background.

We have been constantly assured that this is meant to be a clinically led system and so we find it extraordinary that there is no clinical expertise or perspective amongst the independent non-executive directors. Previous indications were that the Board would be seeking to include at least one NED with a clinical background. We strongly believe that such board level independent advice from experienced clinicians is needed.

This absence will make it much harder to convince clinicians that there is substance behind the rhetoric of clinical engagement and leadership. This is a very concerning result and I would be grateful for any information which you can share as to the rationale for this decision.

I would wish to make clear that our concerns do not imply any criticism of the talented individuals appointed to the Board.

With kind regards  
Yours sincerely



Professor Sir Neil Douglas MD DSc FRCPE  
Chairman, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

cc

Rt Hon Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health  
Sir David Nicholson, CE NHS CBA  
Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director, NHS CBA