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6 December 2013

Dear Michael and Amanda

Re: NHS Clinical Commissioners Ways of Working Report

Thank you for sending me a copy of the NHS Clinical Commissioners *Ways of Working* report, detailing the findings of the Ipsos MORI survey of how NHS England and CCGs are working together.

We welcome this report. It highlights the positive relationships that have become evident across the new system. Developing common objectives and strong working relationships is vital to ensuring the new commissioning system delivers the best possible outcomes for patients. Just nine months into the new regime, we should all take careful note of what has been achieved in this direction, as well as the areas we need to develop further.

You highlight four key areas for further consideration: a more proactive role for CCGs in commissioning primary care, improving our shared approach to commissioning specialised services, the opportunity to build mutual assurance as co-commissioners and finally access to support by CCGs.

We will be considering the detail of the report and these points carefully and constructively. We need to learn from the commentary your report provides, and to better understand our strengths and areas where we can develop further.

The best ways of working are grounded in co-production between our organisations. I echo your comments and look forward to our own continuing relationship.

Again, thank you for providing this valuable feedback which will play a key part in our collective approach to developing the commissioning sector to support high quality care for all, now and for future generations.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Grant', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Sir Malcolm Grant CBE
Chair

cc: Sir David Nicholson, Chief Executive, NHS England