



Department of Health

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Chairs and Chief Officers Local Healthwatch

17th December 2015

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to let you know that the Department of Health is today starting the process of recruiting Anna Bradley's successor as Chair of Healthwatch England with a view to making an appointment before March. You can find the recruitment material for the permanent Chair position at <http://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/search-appointments/all/>

I know you will be aware that Anna has decided this is the right time for her to step aside from her role, having completed a full term and also kindly agreeing to a further extension. Ministers have told Anna how grateful they are for the excellent work that she and the Committee have done with the support of the staff team over the last few years to provide leadership and support to the network and to share your insight across the system. I know you will join me in thanking Anna for her commitment and in wishing her well for the future.

I'm also pleased to let you know that Jane Mordue, currently Deputy Chair will be carrying out the role of Chair on an interim basis.

We are also going to take this opportunity to review some of the operational arrangements around Healthwatch England in the context of tighter resources. We will be working closely with the Care Quality Commission and the Healthwatch England Committee as we work through these changes but I would want to stress at the outset that there are no proposed changes in legislation. The statutory duties and powers will remain the same, with a continuing strong emphasis on support for the local Healthwatch network.

Finally, I want to say a very large thank you for all your efforts across the country over the last year. Every month I visit local areas in England and I always make a point of trying to meet with the local Healthwatch to hear about your successes and concerns, and I am always impressed by both the breadth and depth of your work.

If you have any questions as a result of this letter or indeed you want to raise any other points with us at this time please do share them with the Healthwatch team in the Department – sarah.crossland@dh.gsi.gov.uk or gill.moffett@dh.gsi.gov.uk. I have asked them to keep me updated on any feedback.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Rouse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "R".

Jon Rouse

Director General of Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships