

Appendix One

Patient & Public Involvement Forums

National Association of Patients Forums Steering Group

Meredith Vivian
Department of Health
Head of Responsiveness and Accountability
Skipton House, Room 503A
SE1 6LH

October 2nd 2007

Dear Meredith,

I hope you are well.

Could you please advise me on the following questions regarding LINKs budgets for the financial year 2007-8 and 2008-9?

- 1) What is the source of the £10,000 which you have transferred to local authorities as a contribution to start up costs in relation to the establishment of Hosts? Will this money come out of this year's financial allocation of £28m Forum and CPPIH or have you taken this money from a separate budget, or as an advance payment from the budget for 2008/9?
- 2) What is your agreement with local authorities about the minimum level of activity on relation to the allocation of £10,000?
- 3) What is your estimate of the baseline funding for a LINK in 2008/9? Would this be the same as the minimum funding that an LA could receive for establishing a Host?
- 4) What is your estimate of the total costs for LINKs start up and running costs for 2008/9?
- 5) How will you fund the NCI and the Centre for Public Scrutiny in Health in 2008/9? Will this money come from the gross budget for LINKs?
- 6) What parameters will you use to decide actual local authority LINKs budgets for 2008/9?

I look forward to receiving the answers to these questions.