

# Public Health England

## Friday message



Duncan Selbie  
Chief Executive Designate

14 December 2012

### Dear everyone

It is with great pleasure that I can confirm the [appointment](#) of Dr Paul Johnstone as Regional Director for the North of England and Dr Yvonne Doyle as Regional Director for London. The Midlands and East Regional Director will be confirmed shortly and the South will be advertised tomorrow, alongside our eight Centre Director vacancies. I am also very glad to say that Dr Brian McCloskey has been appointed as Director of Global Health to lead our international work.

In our HQ in Waterloo, the PHE transition team has put up an eye-catching 'weeks to go' countdown sign as we come in. With the majority of people in the field confirmed in their posts and the senior leadership coming together we are nearing being ready for April. Equally encouraging is the tremendous sense of purpose and possibility which I am finding on my visits throughout the country and from conversations and communications across all our partners and people. I want to thank all of you for approaching this with so much spirit and sense of opportunity. It is a great privilege to lead a movement which has such high expectations and ambition. We will not squander this – it is testament to the endeavours of so many in reaching this point. No complacency, but an absolute sense of what we need to achieve for the nation's health working for and with our many partners.

Public Health Genetics will become increasingly important in all three domains of public health and this has this week been explicitly acknowledged by the Prime Minister. This was again clearly highlighted at a meeting of a new West Midlands Familial Hypercholesterolaemia Network organised by Daphne Austin, supported by QIPP, which identified a big opportunity for public health professionals to extend this into a national service. We need to learn more about the contribution public health can make to maximising the benefits from advances in the understanding of the human genome, and its fascinating interaction with the environment.

As we shiver our way towards Christmas you may be comforted to know that the [Cold Weather Alert Service](#), which operates in England from 1 November to 31 March each year, is keeping a weather eye out on behalf of us all. As part of our contribution to this our Real-time Syndromic Surveillance and Extreme Events teams have been monitoring the impact of cold weather through their data streams. So far we have seen only very small increases in attendances in emergency departments for 'cold weather' related conditions. We will continue to monitor the impact of cold on health throughout the winter and step up our levels of surveillance in the event of severe or prolonged periods of cold weather. What we learn will guide and inform local and national multi agency responses.

And finally, the [Richmond Group](#) of health and social care charities held their Christmas reception in London on Wednesday evening and it was a further object lesson in the massive contribution that the voluntary sector makes to keeping people safe and well, and an opportunity for those of us in the statutory sector to say thank you.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duncan Selbie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.