

Public Health England

Friday message



Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive Designate

27 July 2012

Dear everyone

I am glad to say that the [senior positions](#) in our new national team which we outlined three weeks ago have now been advertised.

Yesterday we took four further important steps. We published our [top level structure](#), the [geographical configurations](#) of the four regions and 15 public health centres and the [first module of our People Transition Policy](#). In each case the open and constructive way in which many of you have contributed to earlier drafts means that we have a much improved outcome. I am keen to see the pace of our development increase so that we gain further momentum over the autumn to be ready for the winter and “open for business” come April. I am also delighted to say the Secretary of State has appointed [Dr David Heymann](#), who is currently Chairman of the Health Protection Agency, as Acting Chair of Public Health England.

Research is one of my personal priorities. We need to develop a fresh strategy that is appropriate, ambitious and commands the confidence of funders. To help us do this, we have invited Professor George Griffin from St George's Hospital Medical School to lead this work for PHE. This will build on the obvious existing strengths in research and help us prepare for the National Institute for Health Research health protection research call this autumn. The NIHR call will have a very significant influence on a main part of our research portfolio, our academic partnerships and funding from April 2014 onwards.

I have been listening a great deal to how we speak about public health and ourselves. We do not always present our contribution or ourselves in ways that inspire confidence. Various professionals use the same terms with different meanings and draw upon different intellectual sources. It is very important that we reach agreement on a common language to describe what we do and what we care about. Part of our journey towards a common culture will be through the development of this shared language.

Finally, for all those involved in keeping the Olympics safe, you have my warm thanks.

With best wishes

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