

Dear Colleague

7 March 2007

I have great pleasure in writing to invite your thoughts and comments on the enclosed report, *Health is Global: Proposals for a UK government-wide strategy*. The report makes the case for developing a global health strategy, one that will benefit the health of the UK population and those in the rest of the world.

The report provides a framework for developing the strategy and marks the start of discussion among Government and non-governmental partners on what the current global health priorities are, what the UK should focus on, and what the global health strategy should look like. Clearly, the strategy will not be able to cover every issue, so we will need to prioritise.

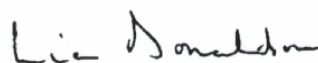
Over recent years, global health issues have become increasingly important. New and emerging infections as well as climate change are threats to health security and economic stability in this country and throughout the world. International development is now seen as a political priority. Recent UN and G8 meetings have highlighted health as central to sustainable development. Fair trade is widely recognised as crucial to global economic growth and lifting people out of poverty. Health commodities and services are an increasingly important aspect of trade.

Improving global health is a central component of the UK Government's overall globalisation agenda. The UK has a strong track record in all aspects of global health. There is much we can build on.

I now invite you to help the UK Government develop the global health strategy; we will be holding discussions between now and 25 May on what the strategy should focus on. We will, of course, consult on any new policy initiatives that emerge from the process. Details on how to respond to the report, participate in the process (which includes written and electronic submissions as well as meetings) and updates on progress can be found on the Department of Health website: www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyandGuidance/International/fs/en

I look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Liam Donaldson'.

**SIR LIAM DONALDSON
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**