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26th February 1999

Addressees:

For action:

NHS Trust Chief Executives
General Managers, Health
Boards

**For information and without
Invitation to Bid document:**
General Manager, Common
Services Agency
General Manager, Health
Education Board for Scotland
General Manager, State
Hospitals Board for Scotland
Executive Director, SCPMDE

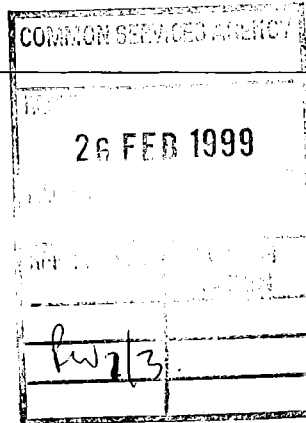
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Dear Colleague

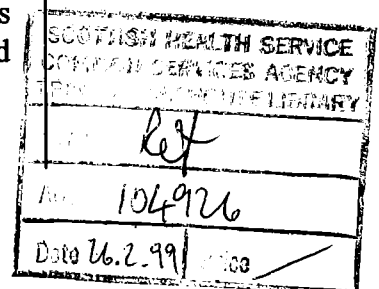
**SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE
NHS - INVITATION TO BID FOR TASK LINKED FUNDING
FROM 2000/2001**

Summary

1. This MEL provides details of the 2000/2001 bidding round for R&D Support Funding. It accompanies the "Invitation to Bid" document which addresses how to make a bid and what to include.
2. You will wish to note that the 'Invitation to Bid' is addressed to those seeking task-linked funding for no more than 3 years only.
3. Current Portfolio Agreements will remain in place until March 2002. Invitations to Bid for Portfolio Funding from April 2002 will be issued early in 2001.

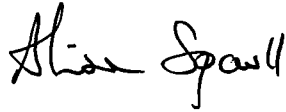
Action

4. NHS Trusts and Practices wishing to bid for R&D Support Funding from 2000/2001 can submit an Expression of Interest to the Chief Scientist Office by Friday 30 April 1999. They will then have until Tuesday 31 August 1999 to make a final bid. Details are set out in the Invitation to Bid document. Submission of an Expression of Interest is mandatory if it is intended to make a final bid. Failure to do so will debar the bidder from the application process.
5. General Managers of Health Boards are requested to circulate this MEL to GPs; GDPs; Community Pharmacists and Optometrists within their area and to have a set of the documents placed in Board Libraries.



6. Chief Executives of Trusts are requested to have a set of documents placed in Trust Libraries. Copies of this MEL and accompanying documents have also gone to Trust R&D Lead Officers. The Invitation to Bid document will also be available on the webpages at www.show.scot.nhs.uk/cso

Yours sincerely



DR ALISON SPAULL
Director
Chief Scientist Office