



Health Department
Chief Scientist Office

28th February 2000

Dear Colleague

**SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN
THE NHS - INVITATION TO BID FOR TASK-LINKED
FUNDING FROM 2001/2002**

Summary

1. This MEL provides details of the 2000/2001 bidding round for R&D Support Funding.
2. In previous years a new "Invitation to Bid" document has been issued to all those eligible to apply. Because this year's documentation is identical to that used in 1999-2000, we have decided not to distribute further editions. We have also decided to replace the database program used for Expressions of Interest and applications in past years with more user-friendly MS Word documents. A copy of the documentation and application forms, amended solely to reflect the financial years falling within this year's bidding round, can be downloaded from the CSO web page at www.show.scot.nhs.uk/cso.
3. You will wish to note that, as in the past two years, the Invitation to Bid is addressed to those seeking Task-Linked Funding for no more than 3 years. Current Portfolio Agreements will remain in place until March 2002. Invitations to Bid for Portfolio Funding from April 2002 will be issued in 2001.
4. The one significant change being introduced this year is in relation to applicants seeking funding of up to £50k per annum. In response to concerns expressed by bidders that the documentation and application form were unnecessarily detailed for applicants seeking a lower level of funding, a Working Group was established to amend the documentation and application form to better meet the needs of such applicants. The revised documents are now available on the CSO web page and should be used by relevant applicants. The Expression of Interest remains the same for all applicants.

Addresses

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

Enquiries to:

Mike Stevens
Room GE.16
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131-244 2259
Fax: 0131-244 2285
Email:
Mike.Stevens@scotland.gov.uk

Christine Reid
Room GE.14
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131-244 2251
Email:
Christine.Reid@scotland.gov.uk

Further copies from:

Andrew Brown
Room GE.14
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131-244 2244
Email:
Andrew.Brown@scotland.gov.uk

SCOTTISH HEALTH SERVICES
COMMON SERVICES AGENCY
EDINBURGH
1. 107924
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Action

5. NHS Trusts and Practices wishing to bid for R&D Support Funding from 2001/2002 should submit an Expression of Interest to the Chief Scientist Office by Friday 28 April 2000. They will then have until Thursday 31 August 2000 to make a final bid. Details are set out in the Invitation to Bid document on the web page. 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.

6. 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.

7. Copies of this MEL have also gone to Trust R&D Lead Officers.

Yours sincerely



 **DR ALISON SPAULL**
Director