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Chief Executives, NHS Boards and Special Health Boards
NHS National Services Scotland

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Dear Colleague

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISTINCTION AWARDS

This letter advises of the availability of the eleventh Annual report of the Scottish Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards for NHS Consultants (SACDA) and also provides details of the value and number of distinction awards and discretionary points in 2010/11.

2009 Awards Round

The annual report provides an account of the 2009 award round in Scotland together with supporting information about the scheme and the committee membership. It is hoped that the report will be widely read within NHS Scotland by managers, consultants and others with an interest in the Distinction Awards Scheme.

Copies of the report should be made freely available to all consultants and others with an interest. The report is available in the SACDA section of the Scottish Health on the Web (SHOW) website at <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sacda>. A copy of the report has also been laid before the Scottish Parliament.

2010 Awards Round

Whilst the attached report relates to the 2009/10 awards round just passed, readers may wish to be aware that for 2010/11, the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body (DDRB) recommended that the value of the distinction awards and discretionary points should remain at current levels in line with its pay recommendation for consultants. It also recommended that the Scottish Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards (SACDA) should have the flexibility to determine the number of national awards to be made at each level in 2010/11, having taken account of any equality issues.

In Scotland, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well-being accepted the recommendation not to increase the value of the awards but rejected the recommendation to allow SACDA the flexibility to determine the number of new awards. This decision was taken in recognition of the current economic situation we face and means that there will be no increase in the number of distinction awards available in Scotland in the 2010 award round. The only “new” distinction awards available will be those funded from cash released by those current award holders who retire or leave the service.

Yours sincerely



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Deputy Director for Planning and Development and Workforce