

# Memo

**NHS Tayside**

<b>To:</b>	See distribution list	<b>Your Ref:</b>	
<b>From:</b>	Dr Karen Adam	<b>Our Ref:</b>	KA/MC/0220ka
<b>Date:</b>	27 February 2009	<b>Enquiries to:</b>	Dr Karen Adam, 36996 kadam@nhs.net

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## **MEETING ON MENTAL HEALTH CAPITAL PROJECT AT 9am, 2 MARCH, KINNOULL ROOM, KINGS CROSS**

This meeting with Mr Sandy Watson, Professor Tony Wells and Mr Ian Wightman has been convened by Mr Danny McLaren. It is to discuss my request that NHS Tayside Board should now be given access to comprehensive information on this project to allow the Board to take stock of the current situation, the consequences for the Board over the 40 year period of the proposed contract and the consequences for the budget to the mental health services and for the Board's budget. This should be done before making a commitment which would incur uneconomic penalty and reduce the freedom of decision making.

It is a duty for all members and employees of NHS Tayside to apply the principles of the Code of Conduct of Corporate Governance (attached). In particular this request arises from applying the principles of objectivity, accountability and stewardship, openness and leadership.

This request is rooted in ensuring that the Board should not be prevented from having the opportunity to take stock, reassess and debate the project in the light of three main criteria:

- Affordability – capital, revenue and opportunity cost
- Strategic fit – the fit of the project with NHS Tayside's stated strategic purpose
- Fitness for purpose – the fit with current best practice and with future service configuration over 40 years

Since the project was conceived in 2004, there is a new Government, a new financial climate both in the NHS and in the world recession, a new Chairman and Board, and advances in best practice in mental health.

Groups and individuals have concerns that the project has not been able to take into account emergent and new thinking on best practice.

I have made this request after discussion with the Mental Health Commission Group, the Mental Health Commissioner and in discussion at two meetings with Danny McLaren and with senior Finance staff.

- This project has grown from an estimated capital investment of £18m in 2004 to £100m
- The unitary charge of £11m per year will add to hospital costs from 2014 (gross effect)

### **Directorate of Public Health**

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The following is an extract, sent by Neil Fraser, from a summary letter received from the Cabinet Secretary after the Annual Review, 2008:

"We continue to give high priority to mental health services and I was pleased to hear that the capital project at Murray Royal Hospital, including the regional medium secure unit, and the associated developments in Dundee and Angus, are proceeding on schedule. Bearing in mind that Tayside will retain three inpatient sites, I think it is very important that the Board keeps the balance between hospital and community based services under review to ensure that the hospital service complements, rather than deters, community developments."

I hope you find this helpful background to the meeting.

**Dr Karen Adam**  
**Consultant in Public Health Medicine**

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**Distribution:**

Professor J S Forsyth, Medical Director, Delivery Unit, Ninewells Hospital  
Mr D Lynch, General Manager, Dundee CHP, King's Cross  
Professor K Matthews, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Dundee  
Dr W J Mutch, Medical Director, Tayside NHS Board, King's Cross  
Mr M Petrie, Chairman, Delivery Unit, Ninewells Hospital  
Dr D Walker, Director of Public Health Medicine, NHS Tayside, King's Cross

**Copy to:**

Mr David Clark, Director of Finance, NHS Tayside, Maryfield House