



Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG
Tel: 020 7654 8090
www.gov.uk/phe

Professor Susan Bewley
c/o Division of Women's Health KCL
Women's Health Academic Centre
King's Health Partners
10th floor North Wing
St Thomas' Hospital
Westminster Bridge Rd
London SE1 7EH

19 February 2015

Dear Professor Bewley

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2014 and email of 12 February. I am sorry for the delay in replying to the former.

As you know, I took advice from the PHE Board in November on the concerns you raised about the age extension programme. Whilst there is no right of appeal to the outcome set out in my letter to you of 17 December, I would however like to comment on the matters raised in your letter and subsequent email in the order in which they appear therein. With respect to your letter of 19 December:

1. as advised in my letter to you of 17 December 2014, Professor Patnick briefed the November 2014 Board meeting on the history of the breast cancer screening programme and the background to the age extension trial, which commenced prior to PHE's establishment in April 2013. This was in addition to, but not instead of, a paper circulated in advance that had been prepared by the Deputy Director - Science and Strategic Information and presented to the Board by Professor Fenton. The Board found Professor Patnick's background briefing both helpful and informative prior to considering and advising on the matter presented by Professor Fenton;
2. as you note, the trial does not involve an investigational medical product. I would also point out that Professor Patnick has satisfactorily completed training in Good Clinical Practice at Oxford University;
3. we note your comments and your recognition of the improvement to the patient information leaflet;
4. we note your views and, as previously advised, stand ready to assist the Health Research Authority or the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology if they choose to consider the matter further; and
5. there was no PHE involvement in the Daily Mail article to which you refer.



Public Health England

With respect to the points raised in your subsequent email of 12 February, in which you advised that you had written to the Secretary of State for Health in your King's Health Partners capacity:

1. PHE advises Ministers on a wide range of public health matters, including breast cancer screening. In turn, independent advice to PHE on breast cancer screening is provided by the Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer Screening. The Committee, which was established in 1987, has considerable scientific and clinical expertise and has advised successive Ministers on the screening programme, and now advises PHE; and
2. Professor Fenton acts as line manager to Professor Patnick in her role as head of cancer screening within PHE. Professor Patnick is the principal investigator of the breast screening age extension trial. Professor Fenton is a co-investigator.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duncan Selbie".

Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive

cc: Professor David Heymann, Chairman
Professor Kevin Fenton, National Director of Health and Wellbeing
Professor Julietta Patnick, Director NHS Cancer Screening Programmes
Professor Sir Robert Lechler, Executive Director, King's Health Partners