

Dear Sir David,

This is an early and informal response to flag up some areas of health research which may not be being considered by your team but which are nevertheless important. This note is sent following discussions with the DfT Chief Scientific Adviser, Frank Kelly, but I have not discussed it with the other governmental bodies mentioned.

Several parts of government, in addition to DH, have an interest in health related research and both commission it and benefit from the facilities and skills which form parts of your investigation of DH and the MRC.

- DfT undertakes research on health and performance in all modes of transport as well as on disability and its impact on access to transport. We are also users of a wide range of sources of academic health expertise and of data about disease incidence and prognosis, primarily collected from the health care system.

- HSE, where I worked for many years and on whose behalf I was a member of the MRC, has similar needs in addition to the investigation of the specific risks from work

- DWP has a major concern with the effectiveness of the health care system because it influences return to work and the need for benefits

Others with not dissimilar interests are DEFRA on air pollution and the MOD on a wide range of topics.

Frank Kelly tells me that the use of health research elsewhere in government will be raised through the network of departmental chief scientists. However if you need further information on the details of the arrangements for use of health research as part of the research strategy in DfT then I would be happy to provide it.

Tim Carter  
Chief Medical Adviser  
Department for Transport