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Dear Sir David

Review of UK Health Research

I am writing to submit an initial comment to the review of UK health research.

As I understand it, the purpose of the review is to reach agreement on the best institutional arrangements for a single fund for Medical Research Council (MRC) and NHS R&D programmes for UK based research.

As you will be aware, the MRC is also involved in a substantial programme of research relevant to developing countries. The MRC is internationally recognised as a world leader in this area and its overseas units (in Uganda and the Gambia) are centres of excellence. The international research funded by the MRC has made a significant impact on poverty reduction in Africa, Asia and developing countries in other parts of the world.

We have not yet picked up any reference to the MRC's international work in the documentation around your review. While we recognise that this area is not likely to be one of your major issues (although it does contribute significantly to the MRC's international reputation), we would like to register that the Department for International Development does work very closely with MRC as a partner in international health research. We have a strong interest in seeing a set of arrangements emerge from this review which continue to support and promote this work in future and trust that you will consult with us as necessary to ensure that that is the case.

Yours sincerely

Joy Hutcheon
Director, Knowledge Division



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