

Dear Sir,

The South Wiltshire R&D Management Committee considered the consultation document at a recent committee meeting. The committee have asked me to pass on a couple of broad comments on the Cooksey consultation:

1. The NHS R&D should be distinct from the MRC and should provide a means to support basic developmental work in the NHS, eg development of new devices, tests and QA mechanisms which may or may not be evaluated in the context of clinical trials. There should also be a mechanism by which such tests and devices developed by R&D funding can be transferred (ie funded for) service.

2. The R&D funds should provide a means for basic research support infrastructure, eg libraries, training and perhaps access to more electronic journals through some sort of central agreement.

3. A substantial component should be investigator lead. Basic science, ie that which is eligible for standard MRC or other grant funding should generally not be funded by NHS R&D. The focus should be on translational and applied science.

With best wishes

Stef

Dr Stef Scott
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