



Scottish Funding Council

Promoting further and higher education

Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

A' brosnachadh foghlam adhartach agus ard-ìre

5 July 2006

Sir David Cooksey  
Consultation responses  
Cooksey Review Secretariat  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
LONDON SW1A 2HQ

*Dear Sir David*

### **Cooksey Review of UK health research**

Health research in Scotland is a very highly rated and disproportionately significant element of UK activity. It serves to advance understanding and clinical practice at a Scottish level, at a UK level and more broadly, internationally in addressing the healthcare agenda and delivering quality of life and other economic benefits.

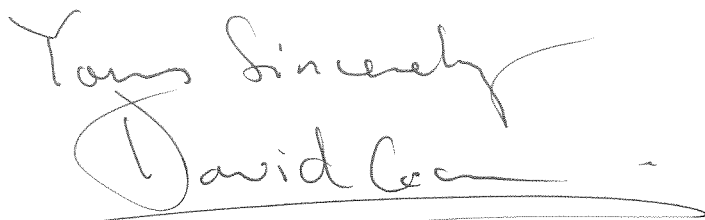
Scottish Universities and HEIs play a pivotal role in performing health care research and also in delivering improvements in clinical and non-clinical practice through a broad range of research informed health-focused networks. These activities are supported through SFC's Main Quality Research Grant (QR), through SFC's Strategic Research Development Grant (SRDG) and by the Scottish Executive and the Scottish NHS. Many activities are supported through multi-funder partnerships and are delivered by consortia of Universities and alliances or networks with other Scottish or UK-based research providers and users.

If the UK is to maintain its internationally competitive position, it is imperative that such health care and biomedical research activities can continue to flourish and can continue to remain integrated within the UK's Science base.

It is therefore, essential that the review of UK health research does not lead to the exclusion of key contributors to the UK research effort or to fragmentation of the science base. If the UK's MRC's research budget is to be combined with NHS resources for research, it is imperative that the resulting 'pot' is accessible to Universities and potentially other research providers across the whole of the UK.

This would ensure 'best value' use of public funds in supporting cutting-edge research and 'good practice' in pursuing the formation of the best collaborations, research partnerships and multi- and interdisciplinary teams possible to tackle healthcare challenges effectively in a highly competitive international environment.

I would be delighted to elaborate on these specific issues or broader ones concerning all health care research support including the importance of retaining major charities and pharma investment in UK biomedical science, should you so wish.

Yours sincerely  


**Professor David Gani CChem FRSC FRSE**  
Director of Research Policy and Strategy