

Professor Sir John Bell

11 December 2013

Dear Sir John

**Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC)**

I am now able to provide you with detailed feedback on the Designation Panel's review of your application for AHSC designation.

This letter should be read alongside our letter of 29 November notifying you of the outcome of your application for AHSC designation.

Overall, the Panel recommended strongly that it would be essential for designated AHSC partnerships to give urgent focus to the development and delivery of appropriate e-Health informatics platforms and interoperability in order to ensure that the partnerships continue to meet fully the aims and objectives of an internationally elite AHSC. The Panel also recommended that any future Department of Health designation should consider the extent to which this is evidenced as an important characteristic for successful AHSC designation.

If you would find it helpful to discuss this feedback, then I would be happy to arrange a teleconference with myself and colleagues from the Department of Health.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Mags Sara**

*Head of Infrastructure & Research Schools*

## **Extract of the minute of the Academic Health Science Centre Designation Panel's Assessment of the Application from Oxford**

The interview team from the Oxford application made their presentation. This was followed by detailed questioning from the Designation Panel.

In the Panel discussion following the interview, the Panel summarised their assessment of the application against the published designation criteria:

- *Volume, critical mass and world-class excellence in basic medical research, and the ability to translate findings from basic research into excellent translational, clinical and applied research across a range of interests.* The Panel agreed that the volume, critical mass and world-class excellence in basic medical research were all extremely strong and excellent. The partnership also demonstrated world-class recognised excellence in translational research and in the application of findings. The national and international collaborations were also very strong.
- *Excellence in patient care.* The partnership demonstrated excellence in patient care, underpinned by excellent data on outcome indicators.
- *Excellence in health education.* The proposal demonstrated excellence in health education and a strong health educational programme. However, it was considered that health education of non-medical professionals, the development of teams and inter-professional education could have been better articulated within the application.
- *Track record of translating scientific advances into patient benefit, in order to improve patient care and healthcare delivery.* The proposal demonstrated an excellent track record of translating scientific advances into patient benefit, in order to improve patient care and healthcare delivery.
- *Strength of the strategy for the proposed AHSC.* The strategic plan was considered strong, well structured and very convincing and clearly built on the strength and capabilities of the partners.
- *Strength and appropriateness of strategic alignment of the NHS provider/university partnership's, governance and leadership arrangements.* The Panel agreed that the strength and appropriateness of strategic alignment of the NHS provider/university partnership's, governance and leadership arrangements was good and well described in the application. The Panel was particularly impressed that the team had demonstrated a convincing functioning partnership and that the role of Oxford Brookes in the partnership had been clearly articulated. The importance of the Advisory Board in ensuring delivery of the aims and objectives of the AHSC was highlighted.
- *Track record of, and capacity for, contributing to growth and the economy through partnerships with commercial life science organisations.* The proposal demonstrated a very good track record of, and capacity for, contributing to growth and the economy through partnerships with commercial life science organisations. The Panel acknowledged the wide range of potential industry partners and particularly welcomed the ambitious goals and clear deliverables to address weaknesses in current Life Science business models.

It was noted that the PPI strategy demonstrated a commitment to building on the knowledge and experience of existing PPI leads that are working with the AHSN and other organisations to assist in the delivery and resourcing of the AHSC strategy. The patient and public engagement strategy was considered strong.

In final discussion, the Panel recommended that the application should be designated as an Academic Health Science Centre.