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20th November 2003

To: All Trust Chief Executives

Dear Colleague

**Re: Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the United Kingdom on behalf of England**

The government of South Africa and the government of the United Kingdom have agreed on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) focussing on the reciprocal educational exchange of Healthcare concepts and personnel. The memorandum of understanding will cover a wide range of areas with a view to sharing and disseminating best practice. It will also offer the opportunity for Nationals from both the UK and South Africa to benefit from time limited placements in each others country. It is anticipated that this MOU will be of mutual benefit to both countries. The MOU will create trans-cultural opportunities for clinical personnel and healthcare managers.

Prior to setting up these arrangements we would like to find out from you the following information.

- If you already have an exchange programme or are undertaking any co-operational development with any hospital in South Africa. If so would you please send us details of the arrangement and the contact details of the Trust lead to the address above.
- If you are currently not involved in an exchange programme or co-operational development, but would be interested in setting up a development programme, then please send details of the Trust with the name of a contact person.

All exchanges will be facilitated in conjunction with Peter Inns (HRD) and there will be a clearing system to approve twinning arrangements. All newcomer Trusts will need to be able to demonstrate that they are able to support financially any type of exchange or development.

The agreement will also enable clinical staff from England to work alongside healthcare personnel in South Africa, with particular emphasis on rural areas.

Some of the specific work that South Africa has expressed an interest in includes:

- (i) Professional Regulation issues
- (ii) Public Health and Primary care
- (iii) Workforce planning and development, including the service and academic interface
- (iv) Medicines regulation and medical devices
- (v) Public - Private partnerships including private finance initiatives
- (vi) Revitalisation of hospitals, including governance and re-engineering
- (vii) Twinning of hospitals to share best practices and strengthen management
- (viii) Training in healthcare management and issues related to the above

This is a great opportunity to be part of this International partnership programme, which will benefit healthcare personnel from both South Africa and the UK in working and learning in different clinical and managerial environments.

Please return all responses to the address above by January 16th 2004.

For further information please contact Professor Anna Maslin, International Officer for Nursing and Midwifery on 020 7210 4856 or e-mail [anna.maslin@doh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:anna.maslin@doh.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Prof. Anna Maslin  
International Officer for Nursing & Midwifery

Geoffrey Wheat  
South Africa Co-operation Project HRD