



15 February 2002

Miss J McGaffin
Director of Dental Health
Western Health and Social Services Board
15 Gransha Park, Clooney Road
LONDONDERRY BT47 6FN

Dear Miss McGaffin

INVESTING FOR HEALTH – AN ORAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

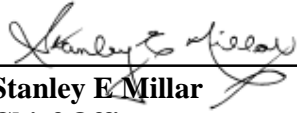
The above document was discussed at a meeting of Health and Social Services Councils' Chief Officers in Omagh on Friday 18 January 2002.

I have been asked by my colleagues to thank you for the opportunity to examine the contents and offer the following brief observations.

- (1) The Chief Officers appreciate the considerable volume of information which was incorporated in the document.
- (2) The document reveals the extensive agenda which will have to be included in an Oral Health Strategy.
- (3) Particular interest was taken in the public aspects which came out of original workshops – the need to:
 - provide more information at community level.
 - raise the image and value of oral health.
 - establish closer links between general and oral health.
 - better targeting of resources.
 - improved collaboration with community organisations.
- (4) The addressing of key issues should be undertaken through a Multi Agency approach which includes Education and the District Councils with an enhanced Community input.
- (5) The Chief Officers support in principle an approach of delegating the identification of Oral Health priorities to a locality level.

Finally it was agreed that the Oral Health perspective deserves a much higher profile within the Health Agenda. The Chief Officers offer a commitment to work with the Boards and Trusts to secure an improvement in the overall level of Oral Health across the population.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanley E. Millar", written over a horizontal line.

Stanley E. Millar
Chief Officer

(On behalf of the four Health and Social Services Councils)