

## NHSCR Governance Board Relocation of NHSCR – Progress Report

### Background

1. As part of the Scottish Executive's policy of creating public sector job opportunities across Scotland, a review was carried out in Summer 2004 of the future location of the NHSCR, which has since its inception been located in Edinburgh.
2. On 9 November 2004, Tavish Scott (as Minister responsible for GROS) announced that the NHSCR would relocate to Dumfries in Spring 2005.

### Progress Report

3. To ensure continuity of high-quality service, there is a period of parallel running until August 2005 (for the bulk of the work) and Spring 2006 (for the most difficult cases). The first phase has been completed successfully and the second phase is on target. Work will not be transferred from Edinburgh until quality is satisfactory.
4. Progress on the main aspects of the relocation is as follows:-
  - **Accommodation.** The NHSCR occupies temporary accommodation on the Crichton Business Park on the outskirts of Dumfries. Its permanent home on the Park requires extensive refurbishment and will not be ready for occupation until next summer. But the temporary accommodation is perfectly satisfactory in the interim.
  - **Recruitment of staff at Dumfries.** Recruitment has gone well. All posts have been filled by staff transferred from SE or other Government Departments and all the new staff are in post.
  - **Retention of staff at Edinburgh.** It is obviously important that the skilled existing staff are retained until staff at Dumfries are fully trained, and that their future prospects are not hindered by the transfer. One member of staff (the Head of the NHSCR) has relocated to Dumfries. Five members of staff will retire (4 in March 2006 and 1 in early 2007). New jobs are being found for the remaining 8 staff: 3 have already been transferred. At present, we are confident that staff will not leave while they are still needed, and will be found suitable jobs at the right time. But this will require continued management attention.
5. Great importance is being placed on continuing the quality of the service which the NHSCR offers. The quality of the new Dumfries staff is very encouraging in this regard. But performance indicators will be carefully monitored during the transitional period.

**Recommendation**

6. The Board is invited to note the position.

**General Register Office for Scotland  
October 2005**