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**RE: Being a Manager, Becoming a Professional? Exploring the Use of Management Knowledge across Communities of Practice in Healthcare Organisations**

Dear

You are invited to take part in a research project focusing on the use of management knowledge in the NHS in England. The project has been commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research Service Delivery Organization. Our research is designed to help us learn more about how managers in the NHS access management knowledge and apply it to their work, and we would very much value your contribution. At the same time, your participation is entirely voluntary and you would be free to withdraw at any time.

We believe that managers in the middle reaches of NHS organizations play very important roles in securing performance improvements and that management knowledge is a vital resource that they draw upon. Yet, there has been very little research that has attempted to understand the various sources of management knowledge available to, and accessed by, different groups of manager within the NHS; or how managers access, interpret and use that knowledge in the performance of their role and how that, in turn, relates to their professional development.

Please take a few minutes to read the attached information sheet which gives further details about the purpose of the study and the nature of your participation and which is designed to help you decide whether or not to take part.

We will contact you again in a week's time and after you have had time to read the information sheet, to ask you whether you would be willing to take part in the study. Full contact details for the research team are given on the information sheet. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the team with any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Mike Bresnen (Principal Investigator)