

**SUPRA REGIONAL SERVICES 1992-93****ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH****Introduction**

1. Supra regional services are those clinical services which in order to be clinically effective or economically viable need to be provided by centres each of which serves a population significantly larger than that of a single health service region. The criteria for selecting services for designation are set out in Health Notice HN(83)36. Additional guidance was issued in a health service communication of 12 September 1988, reference EL(88) P/153.

2. The Secretary of State has accepted the recommendations of the Supra Regional Services Advisory Group for 1992-93 which have been endorsed by Regional Health Authority Chairmen. As in previous years the Advisory Group has considered applications for the designation of new supra regional services and units, and has made its recommendations on the funding to be provided to designated centres in 1992-93. The Group has also reviewed the need for continued designation of each existing supra regional service in the light of the Government's reforms of the NHS.

3. The Secretary of State's decisions on general issues affecting the services are described in paragraphs 4 to 7 below. One new service will be designated on an interim basis in 1992-93, and one service will be removed from the arrangements from April 1993. One additional centre will be designated for liver transplantation and one for heart transplantation in 1992-93. Further details for each service are given in paragraphs 8-36, and a list of unsuccessful applications for designation is at Annex A. Paragraphs 37 and 38 set out decisions on capital funding of the services for 1992-93.

**General Issues**

4. During the year the Advisory Group considered a number of issues which have a general bearing on all supra regional services. In its recommendations last year the Group suggested that funding be made available for a detailed study of the costs attributable to the supra regional services. Members considered that rigorous examination of the reasonableness of contract prices would help the Advisory Group and the Department to become fully informed purchasers in the reformed NHS. The necessary funds have been found within the Department's management consultancy budget. The study is now proceeding, and the results will inform decisions for 1993-94 and subsequent years.