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Professor Alan North  
Vice President & Dean of the Faculty of Medical & Human Sciences  
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University of Manchester  
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11 MAR 2009

*Dear Professor North*

**Designation as an Academic Health Science Centre**

On the recommendation of the international panel and on behalf of the Government, I am designating MAHSC as an Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) for a period of five years. I congratulate you on this major achievement.

The Government considers that Academic Health Science Centres have enormous potential to realise significant benefits for patients and the population through the better integration of research, education and patient care. The Centres also have the ability to generate considerable economic benefits for the country as a whole.

I attach to this letter the detail of the general conditions of your continued designation as an AHSC. The designation is granted subject to these conditions, and may be suspended or removed if, at any time, any of these conditions are not being met. In particular, the international panel stressed in its report that organisations within a partnership needed to get the basics right to maintain the credibility of the AHSC.

May I congratulate you once more on your achievement in attaining Academic Health Science Centre status. I know that you have invested considerable effort in developing your bid and in identifying how you can best realise the synergies across the tripartite mission of the AHSC.

I urge you to work closely with the other AHSCs to maximise benefits across the movement as a whole.

I hope that your success in gaining this status translates into tangible benefits for patients in your local community, across the country and internationally. I look forward to learning more about your progress and achievements and my office will be in contact to make arrangements for this.

*Yours sincerely  
Alan Johnson*

**ALAN JOHNSON**