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**HELEN EADIE MSP**  
DUNFERMLINE EAST CONSTITUENCY

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

21 October 2009

**RECEIVED**

**23 OCT 2009**

Dear Gordon

**Re: Merit Payments**

I am writing to you in your capacity as Prime Minister to urge you to scrap merit payments for Consultants. In doing so, this would enable MSPs in Scotland to press for scrapping of the scheme in Scotland.

In Scotland we currently spend £30 million on this scheme, and this figure is rising. I do not believe that there should be a scheme for excellence for NHS Consultants and not for other NHS workers.

The reason for requesting this action be taken in harmony between Scotland and Westminster is to avoid Consultants punishing any one part of the UK against another part, as has been said they might do if one part of the UK scraps the scheme and the other does not. The fear is that Consultants would move from Scotland to England if we scrapped this merit scheme in Scotland only. However, if a UK approach could be achieved, then that threat might diminish.

Dr Kevin Woods, CEO of NHS Scotland, says that the scheme has been established since 1948. Because it has "aye been" is that a reason for it to continue to be?

I would be glad if you would consider the above proposal.

Yours sincerely

**HELEN EADIE MSP**

cc Andy Burnham MP  
Westminster Health Committee Members  
Edwina Hart AM  
Welsh Assembly Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee  
Members

**Dunfermline East Constituency**

including Aberdour, Dalgety Bay, Inverkeithing, North Queensferry, Rosyth (East), Kingseat, Steelend, Kelty,  
Bewary, Cuddendean, Kinolassie, Lochore, Lochwelly, Lumphinnans, Cowdenbeath, Hill of Beath, Crossgates