

Clare Wright
Chair
Posture & Mobility Group

8 August 2011

Closure of the MHRA's Assistive Technology Centre, Blackpool

Dear Ms Wright

I am writing to inform you of the MHRA's decision to transfer the work of the Assistive Technology Centre to its London-based offices and the planned closure of the Blackpool office.

This decision was made as a result of the change of circumstances faced by the MHRA over the next three years: a decrease in government funding and associated reduction in resources forcing us to focus our efforts on the areas of greatest benefit to public health.

Also, by bringing all the activities of the MHRA's Devices Division into one location we will be able to maximise the effectiveness of the division in handling adverse incident investigations across all medical device categories.


The Assistive Technology Centre at Blackpool has built up an excellent reputation under the guidance of Alan Lynch over many years and, since his retirement in May of this year, this has continued under the leadership of Maurice Rand, who has taken over as head of the unit.

The decision to close the Blackpool facility was not taken lightly and has followed a consultation process with Trades Unions and the staff affected.

I would be happy to answer any specific concerns that you may have concerning this change in the MHRA organisation.

In conclusion, I would like to reassure you that the MHRA is committed to the ongoing support of adverse incident investigation for assistive technology medical devices and look forward to maintaining the excellent working relationship with your organisation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Commins".

Peter Commins,
Director Devices Division