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Dear colleague

DAT/CDRP INTEGRATION

We have been reviewing progress on integration of DATs/CDRPs following last year's consultation exercise and the completion of the December 2002 questionnaire by DATs and CDRPs. As you know, the rationale for integrating DATs and CDRPs is to reduce bureaucracy, provide better support from the centre and to ensure more effective targeting of resources.

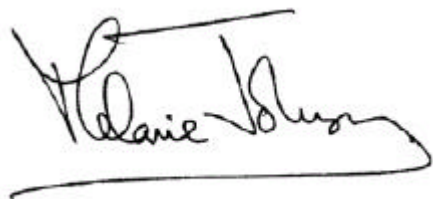
A significant number of DATs and CDRPs are in fact operating as a single partnership with, for example, aligned and integrated planning, support and (through the recently announced "single pot") funding arrangements. We recognise the effort that these partnerships have put into achieving greater integration. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who provided invaluable support and advice as members of the DAT/CDRP Implementation Group.

We recognise that integration of DATs and CDRPs in two-tier authorities may not be the most effective way of working and are pleased that DATs and CDRPs in these authorities have recognised the benefits of working closer together.

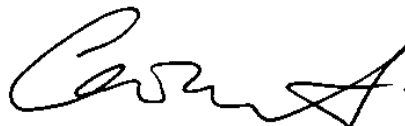
We are clear, however, that in unitary/metropolitan authorities, the operation of DATs and CDRPs as single partnerships is crucial to effective delivery of the crime reduction and drugs agendas and to ensuring effective engagement with PCTs. This is vital as the drugs agenda, including treatment, will continue to be a key priority for DATs and CDRPs alongside the crime reduction agenda. DATs and CDRPs must secure the best local arrangements to achieve this whilst involving the full range of players. The integrated partnerships should also reflect the key characteristics of successful partnership working outlined in Leigh Lewis' letter of 3 July. Where DATs and CDRPs are not yet operating as a single partnership, Home Office

Directors in the Government Offices will be working with Chief Executives to ensure that this takes place.

We plan to produce more comprehensive guidance on DAT/CDRP integration in the coming weeks. Home Office teams in the Government Offices will continue to work alongside colleagues in the NTA and other regional bodies, to review the performance of all local partnerships and provide support where it is needed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

MELANIE JOHNSON

Yours


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Flint', with the word 'Yours' written above it.

CAROLINE FLINT

Cc: DAT and CDRP Chairs and DAT and CDRP Coordinators/Community Safety Officers
Home Office Directors in the Government Offices