

Our ref: RC/rs

10 May 2010

Dear Colleagues

Firstly, can I thank you for taking the time and effort to take part in our recent call for bids against the Regional Innovation Fund in the South West. We have genuinely been overwhelmed by the response from the service, and have received bids against the fund worth upwards of £30 million.

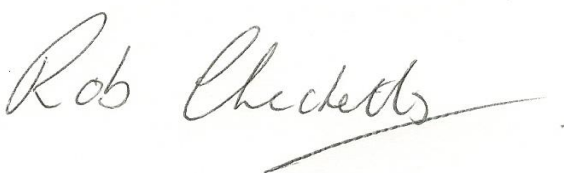
The evaluation tool that we have developed in conjunction with the Young Foundation has shown that the quality of the bids received is very high. The number of bids that score well against each of the four dimensions of the evaluation tool has also been surprisingly high. As you will appreciate, this is making the final decision about successful bids more difficult to make: both because we have a finite resource in the Regional Innovation Fund, and because of our desire to support all of those bids that will improve both the quality and productivity of service in the South West, where possible.

To this end we have created an additional process to further test the rigour of those bids that have scored well against the evaluation tool, which we hope to have concluded in the very near future.

In addition to this we are working with partner organisations including the PenCLAHRC, the South West Regional Development Centre, the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, and the South West Innovations, to identify what support they may be able to offer to those bids that in the first instance are unsuccessful in attracting funds but that may, with development, be able to attract funds in the future.

Your continued patience is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Rob Checketts
Associate Director Strategic Development