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Dear Dr Al-Shahi Salman,

### **Scottish Intracranial Vascular Malformation Study (SIVMS)**

Thank you for meeting me on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the collection of data on intracranial malformations in Scotland. You helpfully outlined the work of the SIVMS over the period since it was set up in 1999.

It is generally accepted that clinicians are required to collect data in order to ensure the quality of care they provide. This is the basis of clinical governance and is a statutory requirement of NHS Boards. High quality and complete data of this kind are essential for audit, service evaluation and operational management of NHSScotland services. I understand that SIVMS is under the direction of a steering group of the relevant clinicians and that data are provided to them regularly to allow comparative assessment of their clinical outcomes. For clinical and audit purposes it is reasonable to collect identifiable data where this is necessary to ensure adequate data quality and allow clinicians to relate the data to their own patients.

Where research is concerned this should be carried out, wherever possible, using anonymised data. I understand that this is the case with the SIVM Study. I have asked Dr Muir to discuss this with you to ensure the processes for anonymisation of the dataset comply with the standards we expect.

Thank you for offering to contribute anonymised data to assist any assessments of neuroscience services in NHSScotland.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Adam Bryson OBE**  
**Medical Director**



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*NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the  
Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service.*