6 June 2011

Rt Hon Andrew Lansley MP Secretary of State Department of Health Richmond House 79 Whitehall London SW1A 2NS



British Menopause Society

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Dear Secretary of State,

In response to the Government's welcome initiative to reform the NHS, the Medical Council of the British Menopause Society (BMS) has prepared an evidence based Statement listing eighteen achievable recommendations. We believe that their implementation would have a radical effect on the health, wellbeing and lifestyle of women in middle to later life, reducing morbidity and reducing costs to the NHS.

As this group forms an increasingly large constituency of the UK population, the significance of 'better health for older women' cannot be overstated in financial, economic, social and personal outcomes. The key is early identification and prevention of illness, best implemented through a primary healthcare consultation for women approaching menopause, typically their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The BMS Statement is being distributed as a 'stand alone' document and published as an appendix to the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists' (RCOG) own statement on future objectives for optimising women's health.

Copies of this letter and the BMS Statement will go to Government departments, shadow ministers, Members of Parliament, policy makers, opinion formers, the media, healthcare companies, charities and, of course, the medical profession.

We ask you to take note of the Statement. We would welcome the opportunity to contribute further to the development of a policy that better supports health and wellbeing in older women and those with early menopause.

The British Menopause Society provides education, information and guidance to healthcare professionals specialising in all aspects of post reproductive health. We are an affiliated specialist society to the RCOG. The BMS also provides support and advice directly to women through our affiliated patient advocacy charity, Women's Health Concern.

Nick Panay Chairman

Sara Moger Chief Executive