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From the Private Secretary

7 February 2013

Dear Dr Horton

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you and Paul Lincoln for your joint letter of 10 December 2012 regarding the Lancet's forthcoming fourth series on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and development on 11 February.

The Prime Minister was most interested to read of the objectives of the series and of the related symposium on sustainable development and NCDs, and is pleased to provide the following statement in support of the launch:

*"The number of people affected by non-communicable diseases is increasing rapidly around the world. But they are - to a large extent - caused by a number of common preventable risk factors such as tobacco, alcohol and a poor or unhealthy diet.*

*NCDs affect the poorest people most as prevention, detection and treatment services are often out of reach. Our focus on health in developing countries is to support improvement in the provision of accessible and good quality basic health services for the poor so that countries can identify and address their own health priorities including NCDs.*

*I wish the organisers every success at the launch of this important series on NCDs."*

Yours sincerely

SIMON CASE

Dr Richard Horton