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## C H A I R M A N ' S   S T A T E M E N T

First may I welcome once again the opportunity to thank most warmly all Health Board staff for the hard work and dedication which they have shown during the last year when considerable changes have taken place. The Board and its members and officers may decide upon and implement policy but the care of patients is operationally delivered by the staff at 'the coal-face' in the hospitals, health centres, clinics and of course the community itself. Thank you.



The wind of change, as I say, is unremitting with a review of our acute services to take into account the city's fall in population and the reduction in the number of patients from other Boards being treated by us.

Additionally there is an increasing interest in Hospital Trust status and in General Practitioner fundholding.

You have my assurance, however, that none of these alterations in direction will change the Health Board's functions – to assess the health needs of the people of Glasgow, to enact plans to meet those requirements and to ensure that the form and delivery of care are of the highest possible quality.

I am supported by a very active, conscientious, committed and caring Board and in all our discussions the guiding principle is the highest quality care of patients.

The launch of the Health Board Charter in March, which was circulated to every home in Glasgow, confirms that commitment and in my view constitutes a major step forward in planned care.

I welcome it as a partnership between patients and all of us in the Health Service. Both patients and staff must be vigilant to ensure success.

The year has also seen a number of major developments within the Board which will be covered in greater detail in the General Manager's review but it would be remiss of me not to mention some highlights.

## C H A I R M A N ' S   S T A T E M E N T

A superlative development occurred in December when we opened the first Scottish Heart and Lung Transplant Unit at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary which will be of enormous benefit to the country as a whole.

I hope we can encourage more people to donate organs which can give life – or sight – to many who await these wonderful opportunities in deep hope.

Major achievements in health care include the partnership development for the Care of the Elderly in Rutherglen and the new splendid village centre at Lennox Castle hospital which constitutes a vast environmental improvement for our mentally handicapped residents. Recently I was delighted to open formally, three new, purpose-built wards for the elderly mentally ill at Gartnavel Royal Hospital which together with a similar development at Ruchill Hospital now offer high quality, comfortable and homely accommodation for a total of 180 residents.

The Board has recently organised a number of staff receptions and it has been most gratifying to receive supportive comments from people who have attended. One staff member told me: “I came away with a feeling of belonging and a sense of pride at being part of a great team.”

I welcome, too, the greatly increased activity in the area of health promotion. This is not simply a formula for advising Glaswegians to adopt a healthier lifestyle. It is again, a partnership in which each member of staff can encourage improved health through personal example.

Our ‘No Smoking’ policy was launched in July of last year and I am happy and pleased that we took the lead in this area and I hope that the same principle will be adopted by other authorities both public and private.



# C H A I R M A N ' S   S T A T E M E N T

As a Board we are greatly helped in our work by the presence of a very active Local Health Council. Any doubts which were expressed some time ago about the relevance and value of a single health council have long since been dispelled.

One of our main functions is to monitor the quality of provision of health care and in this we have been assisted signally by the health council led by Mrs Agnes Stewart.

This year I had the great pleasure of welcoming to Glasgow the Scottish Branches of the National Health Service Retirement Fellowship. This active organisation set up a Glasgow Branch some three years ago, and local members now number about 200. I would encourage all retired employees of the Board to consider joining.

Our internal communications are, I am sure, greatly enhanced by the professionally produced in-house newspaper "The Bulletin" which is published ten times each year. I would like personally to thank the Editor, Hilary Robertson, for the sterling efforts she makes.

Finally, may I say once again that to me patients come first and that this has always been and will continue to be my priority. None of us should ever forget we are ALL in the health care team.



**It was a deep and sad loss for all of us in Greater Glasgow when Lady Goold died in February.**

**Lady Goold was an enthusiastic and dedicated member of the Board who worked ceaselessly for the benefit of the people of the City.**

**Her special interest in health promotion over the years has been recognised and perpetuated by the establishment of the Lady Goold Memorial Fund which has been set up to encourage new developments in health promotion originating from any staff member or Glasgow citizen.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

SIR THOMAS J. THOMSON, CHAIRMAN

## I N V E S T I T U R E   O F   C H A I R M A N



Congratulations to the Board's Chairman, Sir Thomas Thomson, who received his Knighthood from Her Majesty at an Investiture Ceremony in Buckingham Palace on 3 December. Sir Thomas' honour is in recognition of his long and distinguished career in medicine spanning 46 years, during which time he has also received both the OBE and CBE.

Our photograph shows Sir Thomas and Lady Thomson outside Buckingham Palace after the ceremony.

## MAJOR EVENTS FOR THE YEAR – 1991/92

- ▶ **Launch of Health Board Charter for Health “Yours for Life” and distributed to 410,000 households**
- ▶ **5% reduction in total numbers awaiting elective admission for In-Patient Day Case Treatment**
- ▶ **30% reduction in total number of patients waiting over 12 months**
- ▶ **35% increase in Paediatric Day Surgery Cases**
- ▶ **Record number of Cardiac Surgery Patients Treated: 1,960 patients, an increase of 19%**
- ▶ **Heart Transplant Unit, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, opened by Minister of State**
- ▶ **£1 million investment in Waiting List Initiatives – 7,342 additional Treatments**
- ▶ **No Smoking Policy successfully launched in July 1991**
- ▶ **Second Breast Screening Centre, Calder Street, Glasgow, opened by Minister of State**
- ▶ **Board opens new £1.3 million Residential Unit at Rutherglen for Patients with Mental Handicap**
- ▶ **Phase III of Upgrading of Geriatric Units at Drumchapel completed**
- ▶ **First 60 Beds opened at the Joint Health Board/Takare Continuing Care for the Elderly Development at Rutherglen**