Mr P Quadros
9 Station Road
Strathaven
ML10 6BE

5 August 1998

Dear Mr Quadros,

Thank you for your letter to Tony Blair dated 28 May 1998 about the setting up of an agency for complementary medicine. As this section deals with complementary medicine your letter has been passed to me to reply and I am sorry for the delay in doing so.

You may be interested to know that an independent discussion paper on complementary medicine entitled "Integrated Healthcare - A Way Forward for the Next Five Years?" was published by a charity called the Foundation for Integrated Medicine in October last year. This charity was set up by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales who has an interest in complementary medicine. This paper makes a number of proposals for the better integration of complementary and conventional forms of medicine. Health Ministers have welcomed this report as a useful contribution to the debate about the role of complementary therapy. The Secretary of State for Health addressed a follow up conference on 28 May 1998 where many of the issues raised in the paper were discussed. I have enclosed a copy of his speech for your information.

You may find it useful to share your ideas with the Foundation. Their address is: Foundation for Integrated Medicine, 7th Floor, Windsor House, 83 Kingsway, London WC2B 6SD.

In the meantime Mr Blair has asked me to thank you for taking the time to write with your interesting proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Rope
Policy Assistant

Press release

98/208

Thursday 28th May 1998

FRANK DOBSON ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO HELP DEVELOP
COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Health Secretary says that professional self regulation is the only way forward.

Mr Dobson said: "As Secretary of State for Health it's my job to try to see that treatment offered to people in this country is both safe and effective. In parallel with the medical, nursing, midwifery and other professions, we are trying to raise clinical standards by promoting evidence based medicine.