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Ms Martine Walmsley
PSC Support
7 Bluebell Way
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Dear Ms Walmsley

Re: Preventing Liver Disease

Thank you for your letter of 26 November 2012 regarding my annual report.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the work PSC Support do in supporting people affected by Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC). I am aware that the cause of this uncommon liver disease remains unknown and at present there is no known cure or specific treatment for PSC. This makes the support of your organisation all the more important.

I am pleased you found my first annual report of interest and that you welcome the work we have done to make the data accessible. This data highlighted the need for comprehensive action if we are to stem the rising tide of liver disease. As the three major causes of liver disease - obesity, undiagnosed infection, and, increasingly, harmful drinking - are preventable I felt it important that the focus of my report should be on helping people to make lifestyle changes that will reduce the possibility of developing liver disease. However, I do appreciate that not all liver disease is caused by lifestyle factors and that there is a need to achieve a balance between promoting healthy lifestyle choices and avoiding stigmatising those who are affected by liver disease with other causes.

From April 2013 a new organisation, Public Health England (PHE), will have responsibility for promoting positive lifestyle choices at national level. I have therefore copied this letter and your correspondence to Duncan Selbie, the Chief Executive Designate of PHE, so he is aware of the points you have raised in respect of achieving an inclusive picture of liver health.

Thank you for bringing this important issue to my attention.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sally C' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

**PROFESSOR DAME SALLY C DAVIES
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ADVISER**

cc: Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive Designate, Public Health England