26 July 2011

Mrs Rachel Harris
The Society and College of Radiographers
207 Providence Square
Mill Street
London
SE1 2EW

Dear Mrs Harris

Full title of project: Experiencing the Research Role of the Consultant Radiographer – a Grounded Theory Project.

Thank you for seeking the Committee’s advice about the above project.

You provided the following documents for consideration:

1) IRAS Application Form (version 3.2, 19/07/2011)

These documents have been considered by the Chair.

I attach a copy of our leaflet, “Defining Research”, which explains how we differentiate research from other activities. The Chair has advised that the project is not considered to be research according to this guidance. Therefore it does not require ethical review by a NHS Research Ethics Committee.

You should check with your R&D Department what other review arrangements or sources of advice apply to projects of this type. Guidance may be available from the clinical governance office.

This letter should not be interpreted as giving a form of ethical approval or any endorsement of the project, but it may be provided to a journal or other body as evidence that ethical approval is not required under NHS research governance arrangements.

However, if you, your sponsor/funder or any NHS organisation feels that the project should be managed as research and/or that ethical review by a NHS REC is essential, please write setting out your reasons and we will be pleased to consider further.
Where NHS organisations have clarified that a project is not to be managed as research, the Research Governance Framework states that it should not be presented as research within the NHS.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Allen
Committee Co-ordinator

Enclosure: NRES leaflet – “Defining Research”

Copy to: Dr Anke Karl
Karen Knapp