



Association of  
British Healthcare Industries

Ms C Fuller  
Technology Appraisals Manger  
National Institute for Clinical Excellence  
MidCity Place  
71 High Holborn  
London WC1V 6NA

12<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Dear Ms Fuller,

**Response to Assessment Report: Coronary Artery Stents for the Treatment of Ischaemic Heart Disease**

The ABHI would like to re-state our concern sited in a letter to the Rt Hon Jane Kennedy, copied to Andrew Dillon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2005. In it we expressed our concern regarding the credibility of the NICE process, when members of the assessment group are able to make bias determination on the outcome of a review before the end of the process.

This concern has now been justified with the publication of the Assessment Report on Coronary Stents for the Treatment of Ischaemic Heart Disease, update to Guidance No.71. We believe that the Bagust paper and the Assessment Report do not reflect an impartial view and the clinical and cost-effectiveness of drug-eluting stents (DES) is not fairly presented.

To this end we would like to add our support to the BCIA response on this matter.

Yours sincerely

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Director General