



## **New Eye Health Tests: your views A Questionnaire Study**

Dear <<title name>>

We are writing to ask if you will answer some questions as part of an important new study into eye health. Please note, **we are not asking you to have an eye test, only to fill in a questionnaire**. The study is funded by the Medical Research Council and is part of internationally recognised research looking at whether introducing new NHS eye health tests would be worthwhile.

### **Why are we doing this study?**

Certain eye conditions do not cause obvious symptoms in the early stages. By the time people notice anything is wrong, there may be permanent damage to their vision. We want to find out whether introducing new NHS eye health tests would reduce the number of people who go on to have serious vision problems. These tests would be a separate service to the routine eyesight tests currently offered at High Street Opticians in the UK.

### **Why have you been chosen?**

We want people like you - who might be invited to have a test if it was available – to give us your personal views about a proposed new NHS eye health test programme. Your answers to the questionnaire will help us to decide how best to design this kind of programme.

This letter is being sent to about 500 people, chosen from the electoral register, in your area.

**Whether you think you have an eye problem or not, we would like you to complete the questionnaire.**

### **What do you have to do to take part?**

All you will need to do is to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the reply-paid envelope provided. The questionnaire should take about 10 minutes to complete.

**Do you have to take part?**

Taking part is entirely voluntary. If you decide not to take part, please return your blank questionnaire in the reply-paid envelope. However, if we have not heard from you at all after two weeks we will write to you again. If we do not hear from you after the second letter, we will not contact you again.

**Who will know what I say?**

The information you provide will be strictly confidential. Your name will not appear on your questionnaire or anywhere else. The answers you give us will be transferred to a secure computer database that is only accessible to researchers involved in this study. All information will be kept securely within the Health Services Research Unit at the University of Aberdeen for ten years, in line with current Research Governance requirements. It will then be destroyed.

**Is an NHS eye health test available now?**

No. Unfortunately, we are not able to invite you to attend an eye health test as part of this study.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Taking part in this study will be of no direct benefit to you. However, it may benefit others in the future. We have interviewed several people as part of this study and they have told us they are pleased to be asked their views about new NHS programmes before they are introduced, as this gives them the chance to influence how the health service is run.

If you would like any further information on this study, or have any questions about the study, or about the questionnaire, please do not hesitate to contact Maria Prior at the address above.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Maria Prior**

Study Co-ordinator  
on behalf of the Eye Health Screening Study Team

This study has been approved by the Ethics Review Board of the College of Life Sciences and Medicine of the University of Aberdeen.