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28 June 2016

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your email of 23 June 2016 requesting a letter outlining the contribution that the University of Northampton made to the co-design phase of the Commissioning Outcomes Support Partnership and the subsequent launch of the Government Outcomes Lab. I am happy to provide this and support your ongoing work to evidence the impact that your research and policy work has for the Research Excellence Framework.

The Cabinet Office published an Expression of Interest (EoI) document in November 2015, which invited applications to develop a partnership with the Cabinet Office to support local commissioners, grow the market and establish a centre of academic expertise in the field of social impact bonds and outcomes-based commissioning. Two applications were taken forward to an intensive co-design phase that took place in January 2016 and included a series of roundtable discussions and focused meetings to develop the proposals submitted.

Dr Richard Hazenberg and Professor Simon Denny represented the University of Northampton and engaged enthusiastically in the co-design process. Although the University of Northampton was ultimately not selected as the partner for this new initiative, their thoughtful approach and openness throughout the co-design process helped to shape the Cabinet Office's thinking on how to create an effective partnership. Their expertise, both from their research and from their practically-focused partnership working with local commissioners and social enterprises, was valuable to the co-design process. A few specific contributions included:

- Insights into the perspectives and concerns of local commissioners, including local authority officials and elected members as well as clinical commissioning groups;
- Advice on how to engage effectively and productively with local commissioners, based on their own experience of working collaboratively with these stakeholders;
- Advice on how to provide appropriate support to organisations at the early stages of exploring new ways of working, based on their own experience of supporting social enterprises;
- Advice on how to embed consistent social impact measurement into social impact bonds, based on their own research and extensive work in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Alina Sellman  
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