



Richard Bacon M.P.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SOUTH NORFOLK

The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP
Secretary of State
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2NS

9 August 2006

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to you regarding recent reports about the software company iSOFT, a major supplier to the National Programme for IT in the NHS, and the possible early recognition as profit in the company's accounts of revenues from the National Programme for IT.

I should be most grateful if you could confirm whether advance payments have been made to iSOFT under the NHS National Programme for IT, and, if so, state how much was paid and when, and whether such payments were made directly by Connecting for Health or by Local Service Providers.

If such payments were made, please could you state if this was with the intention that they would ultimately be repaid to Connecting for Health, and, if so, please state what the repayment schedule was, and whether such repayments have occurred.

Could you also confirm whether Connecting for Health used the open accounting clauses in its contracts to investigate the impact of any advanced payments on iSOFT's published accounts and what action if any it took as a result.

I look forward to hearing from you.

RICHARD BACON MP

Member of Parliament for South Norfolk