



Wilton Park

Mr David Seergenko  
Minister of Health, Labour and Social Affairs  
Tbilisi  
Georgia

15 January 2018

Dear Minister

- **Wilton Park: Slowing the HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) epidemic for people who inject drugs  
Monday 26 – Wednesday 28 February 2018 | WP1578**

I am writing to invite you to contribute your expertise at the specially convened Wilton Park conference on **Slowing the HIV and HCV epidemic for people who inject drugs**, to be held from Monday 26 to Wednesday 28 February at Wiston House, Sussex, UK. We very much hope that you will be able to join us and participate in this round-table discussion.

We would be delighted if you would be willing to speak during the programme on the session 'How can shifts in fiscal policy drive PWIDs' access to prevention, treatment and care?' which we have scheduled for 27 February at 1500 (session 5) – sharing experiences of how Georgia is approaching the funding of healthcare for PWIDs, and the lessons it might give others. I attach the most up to date programme showing how this would fit with the rest of the conference and some additional questions to address in this session.

The full cost of participation, including two nights' accommodation and meals will be covered by Wilton Park, funded by Gilead Sciences. The cost of a return business class airfare can also be covered if that is helpful.

This meeting is organised in partnership with Gilead Sciences, and the Global Health Group at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). It forms part of Wilton Park's series on global health policy issues, and follows our previous discussions on drugs policy. The meeting is being funded by Gilead Sciences.

The aim is to discuss how to slow the HIV and HCV epidemic amongst people who inject drugs (PWID), focusing on HIV and HCV prevention, treatment and care measures, bringing together senior stakeholders including policymakers, researchers, clinicians, advocates, implementers and industry representatives; 50 in total, from a wide range of countries.

Discussion will focus on sharing lessons from countries that have successfully carried out effective PWID programmes, identifying effective strategies to healthcare provision for PWID and developing a road-map of opportunities, milestones and actions in the lead-up to the International AIDS Conference next year and the High Level Meeting on the global drug problem taking place in March 2019.

Please see the attached outline programme for further information about the scope and purpose of the meeting.

The Wilton Park style is for round-table highly participative discussion held off the record under the 'Wilton Park Protocol'. Wilton Park is an Executive Agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office which convenes over 60 events a year on international policy challenges. Wiston House, the home of Wilton Park where the meeting will take place, is a 16th century house in the Sussex countryside, approximately 90 minutes journey from London and 45 minutes from Gatwick International Airport.

The meeting begins at 1500 on Monday 26 February, finishing at 1400 on Wednesday 28 February.

By accepting Wilton Park's invitation to attend this meeting, you confirm that you have obtained any required consents from your employer, institution and/or professional association in order to accept the proposed hospitality arrangements.

Yours sincerely

*Robin Hart*

**Robin Hart**

Senior Programme Director