10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 July 2009

Dear Ara

Thank you for your letter setting out your reasons for wanting to step back from your role as a Minister in the Government in order to focus more fully on your clinical work and research. Like the many others who have worked with you closely, I recognise your passionate commitment to your work as a world-leading surgeon, and your determination to devote more of your time to the care of your patients

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your outstanding contribution to the Government over the past two years. Your contribution to the NHS has been immense Your groundbreaking review of NHS services acted to renew one of Britain's most important institutions and set a direction for the NHS which I believe will be of defining importance to healthcare in Britain over the next decade – a more personal, preventive service, with high-quality care at its centre Your leadership has made possible far greater clinical involvement in decision-making at every level Rather than just a report you have created a movement for change and improvement across the health service.

I am delighted that you have agreed to take on a new role as a Health and Life Sciences Ambassador for the government and will chair a new NHS Global Forum to promote the NHS and the UK's life-sciences industry around the world

It has been my great pleasure to work closely with you over the last two years and I look forward to drawing on your wisdom and expertise into the future

Yours sincerely

Gordon

Professor The Lord Darzi of Denham KBE