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3<sup>rd</sup> December 2005

Lord Warner  
c/o Crispin Blunt MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Lord Warner

In January of this year you kindly read an article that I had sent for the Secretary of State for Health: 'MRSA – Healing Scents and Common Sense'.

I do not know whether any DoH officials have actually taken on board any of the main points – e.g. fresh air and light, and a healthy, more natural environment in big hospitals. There does not seem to be any evidence that they did.<sup>1</sup>

However, I see from Hansard 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. that Baroness Tonge advocates this to you:

"My Lords, has the Minister read Florence Nightingale's Notes on Nursing, which was written in 1860 before bacteria were even discovered? It contains an excellent blueprint for hospital hygiene and good nursing care. I wonder whether he would undertake to send it to all hospital managers for Christmas this year."

and perhaps you have undertaken to read her work, while the healthcare managers are much too busy balancing other books rather than being concerned with fighting infections!

To save you time, here is one of the main reasons for Florence Nightingale's success:

**"The spread of infection was minimised by making each unit full of light, well ventilated and self-contained."**<sup>2</sup>

As you know, that is exactly what I wrote about in January!<sup>3</sup> I hope this little reminder is helpful.

With compliments of the season,  
Yours sincerely

Grace Filby (Ms)

<sup>1</sup> **Action on Health Care Associated Infections in England (HCAI Consultation document)**  
[www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/53/06/04115306.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/53/06/04115306.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> **Kings College London Information Services and Systems**  
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/iss/library/speccoll/medtre/notes.html>

<sup>3</sup> **Designs For Wellbeing**  
[www.relax-well.co.uk](http://www.relax-well.co.uk)