Dear Dr ………….

**RE: Patient Referral**

I am writing regarding your referral to ………………… I enclose a copy of your request (optional).

I would politely like to remind you that there is no requirement to send the patient for us to make a referral. Private GPs are free to refer their patients to the NHS in the same way as NHS GPs can refer their patients to the private sector.

**Guidance from the Department of Health states:** ‘’Patients who have chosen to pay privately for an element of their care are entitled to receive NHS diagnostic tests free of charge as long as they are eligible. A referral by a private GP for an NHS diagnostic test should not be any different from an NHS GP referral".

**The 1986 handbook 'Management of private practice in health service hospitals in England and Wales', which sets out the key principles that govern private practice in the NHS, clearly states:**"All fully registered general medical practitioners may refer patients to NHS hospitals irrespective of whether they are treating them under the NHS or privately."

You will be aware of the current pressures on NHS General Practice. Going forward, please make your own referrals to ensure patients can be seen to in a timely manner.

We have informed the patient…(practice to fill)…..

Thank you for your understanding.