

Independent scrutiny of NHS Boards proposals for major changes in local NHS services

Please write your response here (please continue on a separate sheet of paper, if necessary.)

Question 1: Do you agree that an expert panel is the most effective way to provide independent scrutiny? If not, what would be your preferred choice? *CONSIDERABLY YES, BUT THIS ADDS TO THE TIME REQUIRED TO REACH A DECISION — ALSO SEE Q.6.*

Question 2: Do you agree that the role of the panel should be to assess the safety, sustainability, evidence-base and value for money of NHS Boards proposals for major changes to local NHS services? *YES.*

Question 3: Do you agree that the chair should be a lay person appointed by Scottish Ministers?

YES.

Question 4: Do you agree that the panel should have a lay majority among its members?

YES.

Question 5: Do you agree that the panel should assess the evidence and options during the process of public engagement prior to consultation, and provide a commentary on these that would be available to the Board and to Ministers in reaching decisions?

YES.

Question 6. Do you have any other comments on how independent scrutiny should be carried out, or on the guidance on "Informing, engaging and consulting the public in developing health and community care services" at Annex 3?

SEEMS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, BUT WITH MUCH TO-ING & FRO-ING OF INFORMATION AND REQUESTS FOR ADVICE FROM VARIOUS BODIES AND (RIGHTLY) INTERESTED PARTIES. THIS MAKES THE WHOLE PROCESS VERY TIME-CONSUMING, QUITE EXPENSIVE AND, OF COURSE, ADDS TO BUREAUCRACY.

Question 7

Do you have any other comments on either the consultation process or your preferred choice?

GOOD IDEA, WITH RESERVATIONS
STATED IN Q. 6.
NO VIABLE, DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE
OCCURS TO ME.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation. We will acknowledge receipt of your response.