

Independent scrutiny: The independent examination of proposals for major change in NHS services

Please complete your response online using the form at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/health/IndependentScrutiny.asp
or use the forms on pages 20-24 which should be sent to

Independent Scrutiny Consultation
FREEPOST NATN452
Healthcare Policy and Strategy Directorate
Mailpoint 1
EDINBURGH
EH1 0BR

by Friday 25 January 2008

Confidentiality

Copies of responses received are normally made available to the public. The views expressed by respondents may also be quoted or referred to in any future review of responses.

Please complete the form overleaf to indicate how you wish your response to be handled.

If you do not wish your response to be made public, please ensure that you indicate clearly that all or part of your response is to be treated as confidential. Confidentiality will be strictly respected. Confidential responses will still count in any analysis and your views will of course be taken into account in the same way as for non-confidential responses.

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?

Yes

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?

Depends on the definition of 'lay'. For example Dr Andrew Walker did an excellent job in his role as chair of the independent scrutiny panel.

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

No.

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?

No as a general rule.

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?

If the independent scrutiny is not to be devalued it should be the exception rather than the rule and implemented for example when there is huge public feeling against how a consultation was conducted and or a specific decision or outcome.

Question 7 Do you have any other comments on either the consultation process or your preferred choice?

The present independent scrutiny panel for both Monklands & Ayr worked superbly well and was an excellent example of the value of these panels in dealing with the issue they were appointed to address.

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