

**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?

An expert panel could have prevented the recent <sup>major</sup> closure of A+E Services in Ayrshire

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 - it should also assess if consultation on changes were robust & adequate.

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

Yes - via Public  
Appointments Scheme

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

Absolutely - medical +  
nursing already have their  
input!

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.  
Earliest possible engagement  
would be beneficial.

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?

Although process important  
ability to influence outcome  
critical

Question 7

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

The Panel should be consulted on overall strategic plan in order that they can assess sensibly whether proposed changes are consistent with the over-arching plan

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