

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 0DR

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.

Mr D Isaac
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If calling please ask for **Mr. Stephen**
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Our Ref: AS/CR/AR DCC.15.3
Your Ref:
Date: 16 January 2008

Dear Mr Isaac

Independent Scrutiny : The Independent Examination of Proposals for Major Change in NHS Services

Thank you for your invitation to respond to the above. Within the context of the consultation questions comments are listed below:

Question 1 - Do you agree that an expert panel is the most cost effective way to provide independent scrutiny? If not, what would be your preferred choice?

The Expert Panel approach, as described, has the potential to provide effective independent scrutiny regarding significant change in NHS. Part of the case supporting development of 'Expert Panels' was based on the current involvement of councillors in the governance of Health Boards. It is hoped that the local democratic processes, through the involvement of Elected Members, continues to be a supporting part of NHS governance particularly in light of proposed direct elections to Health Boards.

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 proposals for major changes to local NHS services/

An independent scrutiny process should certainly consider safety, sustainability, evidence-base and value for money. The process should also have flexibility to consider any knock on effect that NHS changes may have on joint services or on the service interface with Local Authorities.

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

The Chair should be a lay person selected through the public appointments process as outlined in Annex 2.

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

The independent scrutiny process may benefit from a lay member majority. If lay member majority goes forward it would be useful to build in a 12 month review period to assess effectiveness of this approach, particularly in reflecting a consistent policy approach to the design and delivery of services across Scotland.

如閣下不十分明白英語，請與以下的通訊處聯系。

यदि आपनि इंग्रैजि बुझते असुविधा बोध करेन

তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে নিচের ঠিকানাতে যোগাযোগ করুনঃ

اگر آپ کو انگریزی سمجھنے میں مشکل پیش آتی ہے تو براہ کرم نیچے دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کریں۔

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇੰਗਲਿਸ਼ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਕੋਈ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ

ਤਾਂ ਫ਼ਿਰ ਫਰਵੇ ਇਸ ਪਤੇ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ:



17/1/08

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?

The independent scrutiny process should be undertaken prior to consultation with comments/findings made available to Health Board and Scottish Ministers. Findings of the independent scrutiny process should also be in the public domain.

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?

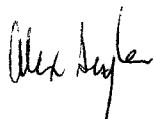
Greater involvement of patients, carers and the public in developing/delivering health care services is to be welcomed. Within this context, it is hoped that Local Authority and Partnership mechanisms would be more greatly utilised. This would be a useful way of accessing population/interest groups that can be hard to reach normally.

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

No other comments.

I trust you will find the above views helpful.

Yours sincerely



Alex Stephen
Chief Executive

cc Syliva Murray, COSLA
Carole Robertson