



**optometriscotland**

10<sup>th</sup> January 2008

NHS Independent Scrutiny Consultation  
Freepost NATN452  
Healthcare Policy & Strategy Directorate  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh EH1 0BR

Dear Sirs,

**Independent Scrutiny: The Independent Examination of Proposals for Major Change in NHS Services: A Public Consultation**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation. Optometry Scotland (OS) is the national representative organisation for all optometrists and dispensing opticians living and working in Scotland. We are continuously in contact at all levels of Government to ensure that the delivery of community eyecare in Scotland is of the highest standard possible.

*In general terms we are broadly in agreement with the proposals contained in the consultation document. We are very much in favour of a more rigorous examination of information and evidence for proposed major changes in the NHS, noting that independent scrutiny will take place before full public consultation.*

We also agree that an expert panel is the most effective way to provide independent scrutiny and that its role should be to assess the safety, sustainability, evidence-base and value for money of NHS Boards proposals for major changes to local NHS services.

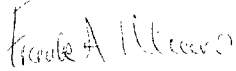
We consider that the chair should be a lay person appointed by Scottish Ministers as suggested, seeing this as the most open, transparent, and accountable way that this most important position should be filled. We are also content that the panel should have a lay majority among its members, although we suggest that this should be reviewable in the light of experience in due course.

Optometry Scotland  
Suites 310-311 Baltic Chambers, 50 Wellington Street, Glasgow G2 6HJ  
Tel: 0141 202 0610 / 0141 956 2041 Email: [optometriscotland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:optometriscotland@yahoo.co.uk)  
Website: [www.optometriscotland.org.uk](http://www.optometriscotland.org.uk)

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OS has no further views on the questions asked at this stage, but would be happy to respond further or expand on any matters if required.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank A. Munro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F'.

**Frank Munro**  
**Chairman**