

043

Kirkwood R (Robert)

From: Sandie Scott [Sandie.Scott@gjnh.scot.nhs.uk]
Sent: 10 March 2008 15:38
To: Local Healthcare Bill consultation
Subject: Response from NHS National Waiting Times Centre
Attachments: RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM.doc

This email has been received from an external party and
has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

Please find below the response from the NHS National Waiting Times Centre on the Local Healthcare Bill. I have also attached the relevant respondent information form.

NHS National Waiting Times Centre

Our response to the consultation document: Local Healthcare Bill

The NHS National Waiting Times Centre is an NHS Special Board made up of two distinct parts – the Golden Jubilee National Hospital and the Beardmore Hotel and Conference Centre. As a Special Health Board, we treat patients from across Scotland and are therefore not directly affected by the proposals to introduce direct elections to territorial NHS Boards.

Nevertheless, we welcome this opportunity to respond to the above consultation. We have not attempted to answer all of the questions posed in the consultation. Instead we have restricted this response to those areas where we feel that we are best able to contribute.

Greater patient and community involvement

The NHS National Waiting Times Centre welcomes any moves that allow greater patient and public involvement. We firmly believe that patients should be involved in designing and delivering NHS services from the outset and every stage after that.

The intention to continue with independent scrutiny of major service change is a robust approach to ensuring that proper cognisance is taken of public views and wishes. However, over and above the assessments of safety, sustainability, evidence-base and value for money, we would also like to see quality and patient experience implications taken into account.

In the future, once the process for independent scrutiny has been put in place, it would also be useful to receive a robust framework of standards for greater patient and public involvement. This guidance would ensure a consistent approach throughout NHS Scotland to consultations and involvement.

Direct elections to NHS Boards

Individual Board members need to bring an independent judgement on strategy, performance, and governance as well as contribute fully to Board discussions and share responsibility for decisions. Any substantial shift to the current recruitment method could limit the pool of experienced and available talent.

Direct elections could also encourage “single issue” campaigners. Therefore, we believe that individuals put forward for direct elections should have the knowledge and expertise to enable them to discharge their full range of responsibilities, much like current NHS Non-Executive roles.

<<RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM.doc>>

Kind regards

Sandie Scott
Head of Corporate Affairs
NHS National Waiting Times Centre

19/03/2008

Golden Jubilee National Hospital
Beardmore St, Clydebank
G81 4HX
Tel: 0141 951 5073
Mbl: 07717 686357
Fax: 0141 951 5500