

Dear Panel Members

**I am responding to the request for views on the Draft Interim Guidelines for the Cooperation and Competition panel.**

**Please note that I have attempted to send this to your email [consultations@ccpanel.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@ccpanel.gsi.gov.uk) but my response was returned as undeliverable. This does not encourage participation. I am therefore obliged to take the trouble to send this by post.**

**Firstly I note that there is no mention of the word 'profit' in any of these documents. I am very concerned that you do not state clearly that these proposals and the system of commercial competition that they facilitate mean that my taxes will contribute to the profits of corporations.**

**I object to this commercialisation of the NHS and to every element of the documents that will lead to public money going to private shareholders. So my questions are as follows :**

1. Will the panel ensure that the alternative of a publicly led service is included in consultations about future tenders?
2. Is the duplication of services to produce choice a good use of resources which constitutes economic efficiency, especially given that the benefits of competition in healthcare are unproven (indeed Minister of State Ben Bradshaw said that the "mix of competition and co-operation in the NHS is a unique model in the world")?
3. Will the tendering process be fair and transparent, with no discrimination against NHS organisations in favour of either commercial or voluntary bodies or social enterprises?
4. Will the public be consulted on an ongoing basis about local tenders e.g. via local involvement networks (LINKs)?
5. Will the panel foster co-operation not only between commissioners and providers, but between providers, a hope expressed by Richard Taylor MP in a debate in Parliament on 24 February?

**Please include my initial comments and my questions in your summary, and take note of the swell of opposition to the commercialisation of the NHS.**

Marion Macalpine