

23rd April 2009

Consultation, Cooperation and Competition Panel,
1 Horse Guards Road,
London, SW1A 2HQ

Dear Sirs

With reference to your current consultations, I wish to register my objections to the imposition of competition and commercial values on the NHS, and would in particular wish to raise the following crucial questions

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?

Yours sincerely

Paul Hackett

cc Jonathan Djanogly MP
House of Commons
London
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