



CCP Prioritisation Criteria

INTRODUCTION

1. The CCP advises the Department of Health and Monitor on the application of the Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition (Principles and Rules)¹. The CCP undertakes four main types of cases: (i) mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and other transactions between NHS organisations; (ii) complaints concerning the conduct of service providers and commissioners, including its impact on patient choice and competition; (iii) procurement disputes; and (iv) advertising disputes. In addition to casework, the CCP provides informal advice to parties on the application of the Principles and Rules and provides assistance to the Department of Health on policy issues when requested to do so. The CCP also undertakes studies upon request from the Department of Health and Monitor².
2. This document explains how the CCP will prioritise its work. To make the best use of our resources and provide the highest quality advice to the Department of Health and Monitor on cases which are likely to have the greatest impact on patients and taxpayers, we need to ensure that we make appropriate decisions about which cases we accept across our areas of our responsibility. We also recognise the need to avoid imposing unnecessary burdens on NHS organisations.
3. We generally prioritise according to the potential impact of work on patients and taxpayers and according to the work's strategic significance.

PRIORITISATION CRITERIA

4. In seeking to target its resources, the CCP needs to consider a range of factors including potential impact on patients and taxpayers, strategic significance and resources.
5. The factors listed below are not intended to be exhaustive. As well as consideration of these factors, it may be necessary for the CCP to take other factors into account where appropriate. We will continue to keep this list under review.

¹ Available from the website: www.ccp-panel.org.uk/reports-and-guidance/index.html.

² See, for example, the CCP's study into restrictions on NHS consultants that prevent them from working for other healthcare providers of NHS-funded services available here: www.ccp-panel.org.uk/cases/nhs-consultants-non-contracted-hours.html

6. The CCP has decided to prioritise its work in respect of the following criteria:

A. Impact

- i. What would be the likely effect on patients and taxpayers be of the CCP's advice on a particular case?
- ii. What would be the expected impact on deterrence, i.e. in organisations modifying their behaviour to ensure they comply with the Principles and Rules in future?

B. Strategic Significance

- i. Does the work fit with the CCP's strategy as set out in its business plan³?
- ii. Will the case help organisations subject to the Principles and Rules understand better how the Principles and Rules are likely to apply in certain circumstances?
- iii. Will the case assist NHS commissioners and providers to deliver better outcomes for patients and taxpayers?

C. Resources

- i. What are the resource implications of doing the work and are those requirements proportionate to the benefits from doing the work?
- ii. Over what period will the resources be needed?

³ Available here <http://www.ccp-panel.org.uk/reports-and-guidance/corporate-documents.html>