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Christine Tackage  
Legal Advisor  
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Dear Ms Tackage

**Proposed integrated care pilot scheme between City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust and Church View Medical Practice**

I am writing regarding the planned transfer of Church View Medical Practice's Personal Medical Services contract to City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust as part of an integrated care pilot scheme as per your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

We are keen to support pilot schemes of this type as we have no doubt whatsoever that it will provide the evidence to demonstrate that the fear on which Principle 10 (Vertical Integration) of the Principles and Rules of Cooperation and Competition is completely unfounded.

In the specific instance of Church View Medical Practice and City Hospitals Sunderland we believe that patient choice will not be affected either in relation to choice of primary care provider or in relation to limiting patient access to alternative providers of NHS-funded secondary and tertiary level services.

I look forward to the outcome of the Co-operation and Competition Panel examination.

Yours sincerely



**Carole Langrick**  
Director of Strategic Development /  
Deputy Chief Executive