

Dear Sir/Madam

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) is the professional, educational and trade union body representing 48,000 chartered physiotherapists, physiotherapy assistants and physiotherapy students. More than 98% of all physiotherapists are members of the CSP and physiotherapy is the fourth largest healthcare profession in the UK.

The CSP is of the view that the above complaint should not proceed to a Phase 2 investigation because it represents a direct political challenge to government policy in regard to the NHS being the 'preferred provider' of NHS services. Our understanding of the role of the CCP is that it was never intended to have a remit of investigating and potentially overturning policy determined through elected, democratic structures.

In addition, the CSP is aware of the work currently underway to revise Department of Health operational guidance following the publication of the Secretary of State's 'preferred provider' policy, and it would appear to us that any detailed investigation by the CCP of the current complaint would cut through and undermine this ongoing work.

In the event of the CCP deciding to proceed to a Phase 2 investigation, the CSP believes that the judgement of the PCT is deciding what kind of tendering exercise is best for patients in their area should be respected and upheld.

Yours faithfully

Lesley Mercer