

Mr Andrew Taylor  
Chief Executive  
NHS Co-operation and Competition Panel  
1 Horseguards Road  
London SW18 2HQ

Dear Mr Taylor

As a working for  
I have been taking an interest in the NHS Co-operation and Competition  
Panel's deliberations over consultants' conflicts of interest.

I understand that in discussions about consultants holding equity interests in organisations competing with the NHS (Possible Recommendations document 7C(iii)) the view has been expressed that NHS Trusts cannot compete with the private sector by offering financial incentives to consultants.

I would deign to suggest that this view is erroneous: NHS Trusts can and do use the Discretionary Points system to incentivise consultants (especially valuable as the increase in salary is pensionable) and I can vouch personally that my own Trust has recently paid me at private insurance rates to do extra cases to get through waiting list backlogs. I do not therefore think that the NHS is at any disadvantage: the means may be different but they nevertheless exist and are used.