

Response from Dr David Rand

22 July 2009

CONSULTANTS NON-CONTRACTED HOURS – POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS

I am a Consultant working in both the National Health Service and in private practice.

I would like to document my response to the Cooperation and Competition Panel's possible policy recommendations.

There have been a number of submissions by NHS providers that they cannot compete with private providers in rewarding consultants on a volume or fee for service basis. At my NHS hospital, Consultants are more frequently paid on this basis (volume or fee for service) rather than on a sessional basis. This commonly occurs with extra waiting list work especially diagnostics. The NHS hospital also the carrot of CEA awards to reward consultants who increase their productivity and participate in this extra work. These awards are of course pensionable, another incentive

My NHS hospital also uses the threat of farming out waiting list work to private providers in order to force down the fee payable to the local consultants. This has resulted in these fees being at or below those paid by outside private providers. It has now become very profitable for the hospital and work previously outsourced at greater cost has been brought back into the NHS hospital.

It appears the NHS is more than able to reward and incentivise their own Consultants financially for work done.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Rand