

Ref: AK/ar

30 April 2009

Andrew Taylor
Director
Co-operation and Competition Panel
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Southgate House
Pans Lane
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 5EQ

Dear Mr Taylor

Study on restrictions on NHS consultants working non-contracted hours with other providers of NHS-funded services

Thank you for offering NHS Wiltshire the opportunity to comment on the National Co-operation and Competition Panel's first study into restrictions on NHS consultants working non-contracted hours with other providers of NHS-funded services.

NHS Wiltshire is committed to offering its residents choice of a range of high quality NHS-funded care. As such, we would not want to see any undue or unreasonable restrictions placed on NHS staff working non-contracted hours with other providers of NHS-funded services.

It is common for senior management contracts within the NHS to require the employee to obtain prior written consent from their chief executive before engaging in any other business, profession or trade (during working hours or otherwise). The contracts also state that consent cannot be unreasonably withheld. This provides a mechanism for the principal employer to assess the impact of the proposed working arrangements in terms of the employee's well-being and their contracted commitment to deliver a safe and high quality service for patients but precludes the imposition of a blanket ban.

I hope that these comments are helpful to the study and would be happy to discuss them further.

Yours sincerely

Alison Knowles
Director of Corporate Affairs & Communications

cc. Murray Chochoane - NHS South West

Chairman - Tony Barron
Chief Executive - Jeff James
Wiltshire Primary Care Trust