

Our ref: MD/LS/HMS/09.39

16 April 2009

Maggie Abou-Rizk
CCP Case Manager
Cooperation and Competition Panel
1 Horse Guards Road
London
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Dear Maggie

Thank you for inviting comments on the Cooperation and Competition Panel – Non-contracted hours study.

On behalf of Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals Foundation Trust, I would like to make the following observations:

We have not had to place any restrictions on the non-contracted hours of any consultant working for the Trust. We do, however, expect full time consultants to undertake at least 11 PA's for the Trust if they also undertake any private or fee paying work. That said, we have always made it clear to our consultant body that we expect them not to undertake work that would jeopardise the financial viability of Trust services. Our consultants have fully supported this stance. We might also seek to limit a consultant's non-contracted hours if we had evidence that these hours were so high as to impair a consultant's ability to provide high quality NHS care. Again, this is something we have not had to do.

There are two other related issues that cause me some concern that may or may not be relevant to your study. I do have concerns that the NHS pays for all study leave and professional development, unless consultants are able to obtain commercial sponsorship. The NHS is also responsible for appraisal and will be responsible for revalidation once this is brought in. Both of these activities are expensive in terms of cost and time, and these are costs born by the NHS. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the NHS is forced to subsidise the activities of its competitors.

I trust you find these comments helpful. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Dr L Scott
Medical Director