

Mallard Court
Express Park
Bristol Road
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA6 4RN

Our Ref: AF/BP

7 July 2009

Maggie Abou-Rizk
Manager
Cooperation and Competition Panel
1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

Dear Mrs Abou-Rizk

Re: Cooperation and Competition Panel – Non-Contracted Hours Study

In reply to the email sent on 19 June 2009 regarding the above study, please find below the response from the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

The recommendations in the study are broadly welcomed by the Trust. In particular, the recommendations outlined in point 7 are considered to be a practical and sensible way forward. The Trust currently works to a collaborative approach to job planning with consultants and the recommendations of the study would support this.

The Trust takes the view that it is neither necessary nor desirable to incorporate the changes into the consultant contract, as outlined in point 9 of the study. The Trust considers it sufficient to take the recommendations forward as 'guidelines'.

I hope the above information was useful for the purposes of the study.

Yours sincerely

Edward Colgan
Chief Executive