

Our ref: MC

30 June 2009

Mr A Taylor
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Dear *Mr Taylor*

Non-contracted hours of NHS consultants

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the possible recommendations arising from the study by the Cooperation and Competition Panel of non-contracted hours of NHS consultants.

The recommendations outlined in option C are supported. The reason for supporting this option is that it prohibits restrictions on treating patients for other providers of NHS-funded services whilst giving greater clarity about the need for NHS consultants to avoid potential conflicts of interest. The potential conflicts of interest arise when working for alternative service providers in roles which include:

- strategic management and business strategy;
- the preparation of tender bids for the provision of NHS-funded work;
- any financial or equity interest.

In addition, the study by the Cooperation and Competition Panel highlights a lack of clarity about whether the provision of NHS-funded services in the independent sector constitutes a private arrangement under the NHS consultant contract (paragraphs 19 – 27 of discussion paper 1). It would be helpful if a recommendation is made to highlight the need for greater clarity in the NHS consultant contract about whether the provision of NHS-funded services in non-contracted hours constitutes Private Professional Services or Fee Paying Services.

I confirm that I am content for these views to be published on your website and attributed to the South West Strategic Health Authority.

Yours sincerely



Sir Ian Carruthers OBE
Chief Executive