

Lord Carter
Cooperation and Competition Panel
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

2009-04-28

Dear Lord Carter

Re: Consultation

Unfortunately, like most people in England, I did not hear of the setting up of this panel until it was nearly too late to make comment. So perhaps my first comment is that I do not feel there has been 'consultation' as the very definition means to take advice, seek information etc. What 'seeking' has been done? Additionally the question as to whether or not 'stakeholders' would prefer the services, provided by their PCT, out-sourced to private companies, voluntary sector bodies or social enterprise schemes, has not been asked.

Question 5 asks for significant omissions and a further omission would seem to be that there is no evidence produced to demonstrate the assertion that competition is good. It seems to me that 'Health Care' is not a marketable commodity. Would you kindly provide the evidence that competition in Health Care results in better services.

Why are these private companies labelled World Class? The private companies in the US do not produce better outcomes in terms of morbidity and infant mortality than most western countries and even Cuba has better outcomes!

Please can you provide the evidence for labelling private profit seeking companies as 'world class'. What appropriate skills and knowledge can they offer NHS organisations charged with delivering a universal and comprehensive health care system to the whole population of this country?

I look forward to your comments

Yours sincerely

Ms Eileen M Smith