

3 April 2009

Interim Guidelines Consultation
Cooperation and Competition Panel
1 Horse Guards Road
London SW1A 2HQ

Dear Sirs

During the course of my life I have on a number of times been grateful for the treatment I have experienced from the National Health Service. This has also been true of many of my friends and acquaintances - some of whom have had a worse experience when paying for private health treatment. It is for this reason that I view with disquiet the current measures to pass over some NHS provision to the private sector, under the pretence of improvement.

The intention seems to be to duplicate services between the NHS and commercial services, claiming that this will increase efficiency, the Minister of State Ben Bradshaw stating that the "mix of competition and cooperation in the NHS is a unique model in the world". Is this really likely to increase efficiency, or is it simply designed to justify the shutting down of NHS services?

Under this procedure, when tendering is introduced will it be without discrimination against sectors of the NHS in favour of commercial organisations?

Will there be any public involvement?

Will the panel in its consultations look at the alternative of a publicly led service?

Yours faithfully

P L Degen

Copy to

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