



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

8 June 2009

### **Restrictions on consultants' non-contracted hours – CCP issues two discussion papers**

The Co-operation and Competition Panel (CCP) today published two discussion papers as part of its study of restrictions on NHS consultants' ability to work for alternative providers of NHS-funded services during their non-contracted hours.

The study was commissioned by Department of Health and Monitor as a result of concerns that these restrictions are preventing providers from offering new services, and that this could be having an adverse effect on patient choice and competition.

The two discussion papers summarise the information provided to the CCP so far and set out some preliminary views based on this evidence.

The first discussion paper identifies various restrictions on consultants' use of their non-contracted hours arising from the consultant contract and elsewhere. This provides important context for the study. The second discussion paper focuses on the effect of the various restrictions that have been observed and the resulting costs and benefits to patients and taxpayers.

"The two discussion papers set out our progress so far and provide an opportunity for interested organisations and individuals to respond and provide further information" said Andrew Taylor, Chief Executive of the CCP.

"They are an important part of our commitment to employing transparent processes and giving stakeholders an opportunity to see and respond to the evidence before we reach any conclusions."

The CCP has been asked to report by 28 August 2009. Its findings will be made public and act as advice to the Secretary of State for Health and to Monitor, the regulatory body for NHS Foundation Trusts.

In the event that restrictions are found to be problematic, the CCP has been asked to make recommendations to assist NHS organisations in addressing the challenges posed by consultants working for multiple operators, including both NHS and independent sector providers.

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Notes to Editors:

1. The two discussion papers and relevant papers, including submissions to the study, are available on the CCP's website at [www.ccp-panel.org.uk](http://www.ccp-panel.org.uk).
2. For more information about the study contact Andrew Taylor on 07906 501 867 or at [andrew.taylor@ccp-panel.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.taylor@ccp-panel.gsi.gov.uk).