

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRANSPARENCY PANEL

Health and Social Care Transparency Panel Terms of Reference (agreed 7 February 2012)

The purpose of the sector transparency boards was set out in the letter from Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office of 14 July, which asked key departments to establish them to support delivery of the transparency agenda in their sector. The overarching purpose of the panel is to inform and advise development of the Government's Right to data strategy from a health and social care sector perspective.

Terms of reference

- Help ensure that data releases and published information support delivery of the six key benefits of transparency:
 - holding Government and public services to account,
 - informing choice of public services,
 - increasing public service productivity,
 - improving public service outcomes,
 - supporting social growth
 - supporting economic growthincluding monitoring the extent to which they achieve these.
- Inform and advise on further development of the Department of Health's information strategy (to be published by April 2012) including:
 - release of large routine public service data sets
 - access for service users to their own data and records
 - user feedback in services
 - strategies to engage with data users to drive social and economic growth
 - support for individuals and organisations to obtain fast, easy access to health and care data;
- help oversee the delivery within the health and social care sector of the commitments in the:
 - Prime Minister's letter of 7 July 2011;
 - Growth Review of 29 November 2011 and;
 - subsequent commitments on transparency and open data set out in the Information Strategy;
- drive transparency and the release of open data throughout the health and social care sector in line with the policies set out in the Coalition agreement and the Public Data Principles agreed by the Public Sector Transparency Board
- ensure that issues of patient confidentiality have been properly and appropriately addressed in all recommendations to release data and

publish information

- identify and support opportunities for linking data across Government department responsibilities to enhance the utility of data to support effective delivery of the six key benefits of transparency eg DWP and 'fit note' data.

Sharing sensitive data about identifiable people with third parties and information which could compromise national security are not in the scope of the panel.

Minutes of the Health and Social Care Transparency Panel will be published.

Department of Health
7 February 2012