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Fair and transparent pricing for NHS services

*A consultation on proposals to formally object to
the pricing methodology*

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Background

The Department seeks stakeholder views and comments on the proposals as outlined in *Fair and transparent pricing for NHS services: A consultation on proposals to formally object to the pricing methodology*, with the view to lay final pricing regulations before Parliament. Depending on the outcome of this consultation, the current intention is to lay regulations in April 2013.

How to Respond

Please return your responses, no later than **21 December 2012**.

e-mail pricing.consultation@dh.gsi.gov.uk with the subject 'Pricing Consultation'

post Pricing Consultation
Department of Health
Room 229
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

online An online response form is available on the DH website¹.

Many thanks for your response to this consultation. Please note that responses may be made public unless you state otherwise.

¹ <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/category/publications/consultations/>

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Personal Details

Organisation(s) represented: NHS Eastern Cheshire CCG

Questions

Question 1: Do you agree that providers of services in the tariff in operation at the time at which Monitor consults on the next tariff should count towards the thresholds?

X ☐ **Yes** , proceed to Question 2 ☐ **No**

Question 2: If yes, do you agree that this should include any such providers who are exempt from the requirement to hold a licence?

Yes

Questions 3: Do you agree that the data used to calculate an objection threshold should be based on total tariff income, as reported in financial accounts?

X ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If no, please suggest an alternative source.

Question 4: Are there any other providers who should count towards the threshold?

☐ **Yes** **X** ☐ **No**

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If yes, please give details and reasons.

Question 5: Do you agree that the objection percentage threshold should be set at 51% for commissioners?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If not, what figure would you propose, and why?

Not 51 % of commissioners, irrespective of whether they responded. Would be OK with 51% of Commissioners who responded.

Question 6: Do you agree that the objection percentage threshold should be set at 51% for providers?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If not, what figure would you propose, and why?

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This figure is too high and is likely to discriminate against small providers, particularly for elective services....Threshold should be set lower at 30-40% to reflect a significant minority.

Question 7: Do you agree that a provider's share of supply should be calculated across all tariff?

☐ Yes

X ☒ No

If not, how should their share of supply be calculated?

This unfairly benefits large foundation trusts, and discriminates against new potential more efficient /innovative providers.

Question 8: Do you agree that providers should be weighted based on income from tariff services delivered, as stated in the previous year's financial accounts and minus any local area adjustments?

☐ Yes

X ☒ No

If not, on what basis should they be weighted?

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This unfairly benefits large foundation trusts, and discriminates against new potential more efficient /innovative providers.

Question 9: Do you agree that the share of supply percentage threshold should be set at the same figure as for the objection percentage thresholds, ie 51% of the total supply?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If not, what percentage should be set, and why?

Question 10: Do you have any evidence that the proposals in this document will impact adversely or unfairly on any protected groups?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If so, please provide details of the evidence.

This is an unreasonable question...and places the responsibility on the respondent, rather than for Monitor to consider and seek evidence to substantiate /dismiss the concerns raised.

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Many thanks for your response to this consultation. Please note that responses may be made public unless you state otherwise.

Comments on the consultation process itself

If you have concerns or comments which you would like to make relating specifically to the consultation process itself please

contact Consultations Coordinator
 Department of Health
 3E48, Quarry House
 Leeds
 LS2 7UE

e-mail consultations.co-ordinator@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Please do not send consultation responses to this address.

Confidentiality of information

We manage the information you provide in response to this consultation in accordance with the Department of Health's Information Charter.

² <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/category/publications/consultations/>

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Information we receive, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and, in most circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Summary of the consultation

A summary of the response to this consultation will be made available before or alongside any further action, such as laying legislation before Parliament, and will be placed on the consultations website at

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/index.htm>

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