

It is currently proposed that voluntary and independent providers will be exempt if they fit an adapted version of the EU's definition of a small business:

- a) fewer than 50 employees (FTEs) **AND**
- b) a NHS turnover of less than £10m

We are a small hospice with a annual turnover of less than 3 million and our total income from the NHS is about £700K. We have aprox 80 wte staff. Regulation by Monitor would incur an added burden to the existing monitoring by the Care Quality Commission, Charity Commission leaving little time and investment for development and improvement.

In order to minimise costs and provide a cost effective service we run combined small adults' and children's hospice

Whilst I feel we should be open to scrutiny and should be able to demonstrate quality of service, we have little spare finance, admin or clinical capacity to support further monitoring unless there is a significant impact for the better on the care provided.

It would be helpful if the number of employees was increased to 100 wte or either of the statements allowed us to qualify for exemption.

