

Dear colleague,

thank you for the opportunity for the NHS Commissioning Board to respond to the recent consultation on the proposed regulations on licensing of health providers: *Protecting and promoting patients' interests – licensing providers of NHS services*. We were pleased to see, and very much support, the proposals on exemptions for primary care providers. In line with the Board's duties under the proposed Section 75 regulations, the NHS CB will wish to commission primary medical and dental services in ways that support comparable objectives in terms of promoting and enabling choices and preventing any anti-competitive behaviours. On this basis, we feel that to add the requirements of an economic licence from Monitor would be duplicative.

We look forward to this position being confirmed once the consultation has completed.