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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: Airedale NHS Foundation Trust

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?

☒ **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?

The Trust does not agree that unlicensed providers should count towards the threshold. We believe that licensed providers only should be part of this process as they are subject to achieving a level of quality of service and performance, which may not be the case at all providers who do not hold a licence.

The level of service and performance to be achieved by licensed providers will incur costs appropriate to that level of service which will require adequate funding through the National Tariff.

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?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If no, please suggest an alternative source.

We have selected the "yes" option on the basis that tariff income is defined as services subject to the National Tariff.

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

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If yes, please give details and reasons.

We believe only licensed Providers should be part of this process for the reasons described above.

We believe that new entrants to the process should be those providers admitted through the licensing process, so they will have an active, participating interest in the process and not be able to lodge an objection prior to becoming part of the process.

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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?

We believe this to be fair as it is set at the same level for providers.

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?

We believe this to be fair as it is set at the same level for commissioners.

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

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

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

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We have selected the “yes” option on the basis that total tariff income is defined as services subject to the National Tariff.

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**

☐ **No**

If not, on what basis should they be weighted?

We have selected the “yes” option on the basis that total tariff income is defined as services subject to the National Tariff.

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?

Whilst this may favour a lower number of high volume providers, this methodology should provide an additional safeguard to achieve a fair tariff, and help providers most affected by the tariff changes.

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.

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 Department of Health
 Room 229
 Richmond House
 79 Whitehall
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 SW1A 2NS

online An online response form is available on the DH website².

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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