



27 November 2012

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Dear Brett

Balance of competence review: publication of Department of Health call for evidence

The Foreign Secretary launched the balance of competence review in July 2012, taking forward a coalition commitment to examine the balance of competences between the UK and the European Union. The review will provide an analysis of what the UK's membership of the EU means for our national interest.

The Department of Health is conducting a review into EU competences related to health. I am pleased to inform you that the Department today launched its public call for evidence.

The call for evidence period will run until 28 February 2013, and will involve engagement with the public, the health sector, devolved administrations and EU partners and stakeholders. Following the call for evidence, we will publish a full report on EU competence in health, which will provide a more thorough legal analysis, taking into account the range of evidence presented.

It is important that the report includes evidence from a wide range of interested parties, to ensure a comprehensive and thorough analysis of the impact of EU competence in health in the UK. As an organisation with relevant knowledge, expertise and experience in the health field, I hope you will feel able to contribute evidence, both on the overall position of the EU's health competence as well as on the specific areas of competence outlined in the call for evidence, which range from medicines and medical devices to nutrition and food labelling.

The call for evidence can be found on the Department's website at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/11/eu-balance-competence-review/>

Evidence can be submitted until midday on 28th February 2013 to BalanceofCompetences@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

The health report links into the other balance of competence reports examining different areas of EU competence. Full details of the other reports and the balance of competence review as a whole can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/european-union/balance-of-competences-review/>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Tomlinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nick Tomlinson
Head of EU and Global Affairs