



Department  
of Health

# Triennial Review of the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA)

Call for Evidence

March 2015

**Title:** Triennial Review of the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards

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**Target audience:**

GPs, Nurses, Clinicians, Managers, Directors of Public Health, Doctors, Dentists, PCT, Foundation Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Regulatory body, Academic/ Professional institution, Employer representatives, Employee representatives, Deaneries, Royal Colleges, General public, Patients, Service users.

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# Introduction

In recent years, the health and social care system in England has undergone substantial change. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Care Act 2014 have devolved functions and powers away from the Department of Health to local and Arm's Length Bodies.

In this new system, the Department has the key stewardship and assurance function, designed to ensure that the new system and the multiple new and reformed bodies within it, have the appropriate functions and are performing to a high standard.

To perform this stewardship function, the Department is putting in place Triennial Reviews of all its Arm's Length Bodies. This includes all Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies (ENDPBs), Advisory Non-Departmental Bodies (ANDPBs), Executive Agencies (EA) and Special Health Authorities (SpHA). As an ANDPB, the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA) is subject to review in 2014-15.

The programme of reviews builds on the approach developed by the Cabinet Office as part of their work on Public Bodies Reform.

## Purpose of the Review

This review is part of a wider programme the Department of Health has developed in support of its stewardship and assurance function. The review has two main aims which will be undertaken simultaneously:

- The first is to provide a robust challenge of the continuing need for ACCEA, both in terms of the functions it performs and the model and approach in which these are delivered.
- The second will be consideration of ACCEA's governance, performance and capability as well as exploring opportunities for efficiencies.

This Call for Evidence seeks views from respondents to assist its consideration of both of the above stages.

## Timeline

The Triennial Review of ACCEA has commenced and is due to be completed in May 2015. The conclusions of the review will be announced in both Houses of Parliament and a copy of the final report is due to be published on the Department of Health website in June 2015.

# Responding to this Review

In order to conduct the review in an open and transparent manner and ensure that the findings are rigorous and evidence-based, the review team is seeking the views of a wide range of stakeholders. We are interested in the views of individuals and organisations that engage with ACCEA or have a wider interest in its work. The key areas of enquiry, based on the five standard areas that apply to all Triennial Reviews are set out below.

Submissions should be uploaded at <http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/>. This site is accessible, but alternatively responses can be sent to: [ACCEA-TR@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ACCEA-TR@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

Email submissions should clearly state interest and interaction with ACCEA whether as a member or other stakeholder.

Interested stakeholders are also invited to attend a workshop to share their views on this Call for Evidence:

17 March 2015                      11:30-13:30 hours                      London

To register please click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/advisory-committee-on-clinical-excellence-awards-workshop-tickets-15453899028>

**Please note:**

Places are limited and will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis.

Only information directly relevant to the areas of investigation will be considered. Information where relevance is not demonstrable will not be taken as evidence. The review team is unable to respond to individual questions or complaints about individual clinical excellence award applications/decisions. Such questions or complaints should be directed to the ACCEA Secretariat (T. 020 7972 4608, E. [ACCEA.Secretariat@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ACCEA.Secretariat@dh.gsi.gov.uk)). Applicant identifiable information should be avoided.

All submissions must be received by 18:00 hours on **Thursday 26 March 2015**

## Confidentiality

*Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).*

*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 of Health as a Ministry of State.*

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

## Useful Links

Below are a few links that are being used by the review team as part of the review. These are not necessarily recommended reading but some respondents may find them of use.

- Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/advisory-committee-on-clinical-excellence-awards>
- Department of Health website:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health>
- Cabinet Office Triennial Review guidance:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/triennial-reviews-guidance-and-schedule>

## Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA)

The Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA) advises health ministers on the presentation of clinical excellence awards to consultants working in the NHS.

Awards are given for quality, excellence, and exceptional personal contributions. ACCEA is responsible for:

- approving the criteria for assessing candidates
- overseeing the process for judging nominations
- considering all nominations for platinum (level 12) awards
- recommending consultants for national awards: bronze, silver, gold and platinum (levels 9 to 12)
- recommending consultants for renewal of awards, taking into account advice from chairs and vice chairs of the regional sub-committees
- considering the development of the scheme

ACCEA's current priorities are to:

- continue to deliver an effective clinical excellence awards scheme to an annual timetable
- maintain a viable clinical excellence awards scheme against a background of NHS financial pressure
- work with a wide range of stakeholders, both internal and external, to manage expectations and the sensitivities arising from review of clinical excellence awards
- support the development of a new awards scheme and ensure transitional arrangements are in place for the current scheme
- continue to improve the effectiveness of the ACCEA secretariat internal business and financial processes
- continue to provide high quality support to ministers and accountability to Parliament

## Introduction to the Questions

Triennial Reviews are usually carried out in two distinct phases. However, this review will consider the questions from both of these simultaneously. This recognises the nature and scale of ACCEA's work.

The review team are particularly interested in evidence in support of responses to the 12 questions set out in this Call for Evidence. Wherever possible, please provide evidence in support of your response.

The Review will be receiving a mixture of written evidence through this Call for Evidence as well as verbal submissions and testing through interview and a workshop.

The Review is considering evidence of stage one and two together. Stage one focuses on ACCEA's functions and how they are delivered. Stage two considers the ACCEA performance and capability, opportunities for efficiency and the governance arrangements.

The questions below invite interested stakeholders to consider both together and feed in where they feel appropriate.

\*\*\* Please respond to **one or more** of the following 12 questions, in particular the Review is looking for evidence to inform considerations. \*\*\*

# Questions

- 1. Is there an ongoing need for advice to Ministers on national level clinical excellence awards?**

Yes/No/Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer.

- 2. Is the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards the best way to award and administer national level clinical excellence awards?**

Yes/No/Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer.

- 3. Thinking about the current structure for the administration of the awards, are there alternative methods for delivery? For example, other organisations for award applications from particular professional disciplines? What are the relative merits of current and alternative methods of delivery in terms of efficiency and effectiveness?**

Please give reasons for your answer.

- 4. Does the national Committee have the right level of independence to ensure its advice is robust and impartial?**

Yes/No/Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer.

- 5. Does the current composition of the national Committee's membership best support its functions?**

Yes/No/Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer.

- 6. Do you have any comments on the balance of the ACCEA structure that currently comprises a national Committee and 13 regional sub-committees?**

Yes/No

If yes, please provide comments.

**7. Do you have any comments on the split of responsibilities between the national Committee and the 13 regional sub-committees?**

Yes/No/Don't know

If yes, please provide comments.

**8. Are there other committees or organisations which could be used as a benchmark for the performance of the national ACCEA?**

Yes/No/Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer.

**9. Are all aspects of the application process for national level awards, including applicant guidance, application forms and associated timelines, accessible and transparent for candidates?**

Yes/No/Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer.

**10. Are there any barriers to applications that should be removed?**

Yes/No/don't know

Please give reasons for your answer.

**11. Could the management of the applications process for national level awards, including associated communications activity, be improved?**

Yes/No/Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer.

**12. Is there an appropriate level of transparency in the national Committee's end to end processes and decision making?**

Yes/No/Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer.

***If there is other evidence on ACCEA's role, functions, performance, efficiency or governance that you would like to submit as part of this Call for Evidence please attach it and state what it relates to.***

**\*\*\* END \*\*\***