

From the Secretary of State for Health



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Following our previous discussions on integrated health, I agreed to provide a note on the outcome of my Department's recent consultation document on the statutory regulation of herbal medicine and acupuncture.

I am pleased therefore to enclose an advance copy of our analysis of responses to the consultation paper. The report on consultation will be formally launched on Monday 14 February 2005.

The majority of the responses received indicate a strong support for my Department's proposals to introduce statutory regulation for herbal medicine and acupuncture, in order to ensure patient and public protection and enhance the status of the herbal medicine and acupuncture professions.

The responses to the consultation will enable us to develop the provisions to be included in the draft Order establishing the new regulatory system. My Department plans to publish draft legislation for further consultation later this year.

JOHN REID