



## **Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP)**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2024 online**

#### **Members present:**

Sir Norman Williams, Chair  
Simon Brake  
Tansi Harper  
Graham Jagger  
Rajesh Khanna  
Ann Lloyd  
Angela McNab  
Luke March  
Tony Schapira  
Rohan Sivanandan  
David Stout  
Elaine Strachan-Hall  
Miles Wagstaff  
Suzy Walton  
Andrea Young

#### **In attendance:**

Richard Jeavons, IRP Chief Executive  
IRP Secretariat  
Grayling public relations representative

#### **1. Welcome, declarations of interest and minutes of the previous meeting**

- 1.1 The Chair opened the meeting and no new interests were declared.
- 1.2 The minutes from the IRP meeting held on 9 July 2024 were formally approved.

#### **2. Chair's update**

- 2.1 Members received a policy update on the government's health mission plan, including the independent investigation of NHS performance led by Lord Darzi of Denham that had been commissioned by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and will support the development of a new 10 year health plan.
- 2.2 The IRP Chair had submitted evidence to the independent investigation in the form of a letter to Lord Darzi on behalf of IRP members. The letter was published on the IRP's website on GOV.UK for transparency.
- 2.3 Members noted that the IRP's clinical member vacancy remained ongoing. A decision was expected from ministers on a candidate to appoint via the public appointments process. A recruitment campaign for new IRP members was also in development for next year, pending ministerial approval, following the conclusion of four IRP members' appointment terms in September 2025.
- 2.4 Members also noted that the contract for public relations services for the IRP with Grayling Communications Ltd had been extended for a further 12 months following approval given by the Department of Health and Social Care.



### **3. NHS reconfigurations update**

- 3.1 The IRP noted that several requests for the Secretary of State to intervene in local NHS reconfigurations using their call in powers introduced via the Health and Care Act 2022 were awaiting a decision. These 'call in requests' related to the NHS proposals for stroke services at Yeovil District Hospital in Somerset, the children's cancer centre for London and the south east, and changes to acute services at Scunthorpe General Hospital. The IRP members had not been commissioned for advice on any of the call in requests received by ministers to date.
- 3.2 Members also noted that MPs Sir John Whittingdale and Dame Priti Patel had written to the Secretary of State to raise concerns about changes to community health services at St Peter's Hospital in Maldon, Essex.
- 3.3 The Chair planned to request an introductory meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss the use of the ministerial call in powers and role of the IRP.

### **4. IRP business meeting schedule**

- 4.1 Members received and noted the IRP's business meeting schedule for 2025.
- 4.2 The next meeting was to be held in London in November 2024. It was planned to include an update on NHS reconfiguration policy from officials in the Department of Health and Social Care and a learning session on the 'hospital to community' ambition as set out in the government's health mission.