

Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) 8 July 2025 meeting minutes

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The meeting on 8 July 2025 was held online.

Attendance

The members present were:

- Sir Norman Williams - Chair
- Simon Brake
- Mark Cheetham
- 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

Also in attendance were:

- Richard Jeavons - IRP Chief Executive
- the IRP Secretariat

Welcome, declarations of interest and minutes of the previous meeting

The Chair opened the meeting, and no new interests were declared. The minutes from the IRP meeting held on 15 May 2025 were formally approved.

Chair's update

The Chair updated members on the ongoing public appointments process for new IRP members. The Minister of State for Health, Karin Smyth MP, had provisionally appointed four candidates who were progressing through the necessary clearance checks with the aim of their appointment terms commencing on 1 October 2025.

Members received an update on the government's Spending Review and Arm's Length Bodies Review. The Chair was awaiting an update on their outcomes to understand the impact on the IRP. Ministers and officials in the Department of Health and Social Care remained supportive of the role of the IRP continuing as an independent source of advice on substantial changes to NHS services.

The Chair updated members on his introductory meeting with the Minister of State for Health on 25 June which he felt was a productive, open and frank discussion. The Minister recognised the value of the IRP's independent advice in supporting ministerial decision making on NHS reconfiguration issues. The Chair suggested that DHSC's statutory guidance on the ministerial intervention powers over the reconfiguration of NHS services needed to be reviewed as it had been determined by the previous government and there was now an opportunity to better align it to support the ambitions of the 10 Year Health Plan.

Reflections of the IRP casework subgroup

Humber acute services programme reconfiguration proposal made by the NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) on 10 July 2024

Members received and noted the IRP subgroup's report to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care that was submitted on 17 June 2025 containing advice on the options for the use of the call-in power for this proposal following requests to intervene from Lincolnshire County Council and North Lincolnshire Council.

It was agreed that although the advice had been prepared by a subgroup of the panel, all IRP members by convention had collective responsibility for it, as they do for all IRP decisions, under the clearance of the Chair.

Members discussed their reflections on the case. Lessons learned were recorded and the Chair stated that he would feed the comments back to DHSC officials to consider.

The Chair thanked all those present and closed the meeting.