



19th September 2007

Dear colleague

Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) to scrutinise the Darzi review

I am writing to you in my role as Chairman of the London Scrutiny Network, an informal group of scrutiny Members and officers that regularly meets at London Councils' offices. I understand from your authority's website that you are the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee or equivalent. Please accept my apologies if this is not correct, and if so I would be most grateful if you could pass this letter onto your appropriate colleague.

As you are probably aware, the London PCTs are launching a formal public consultation on the Darzi review – officially entitled *Healthcare for London: A Framework for Action*. This first stage consultation will examine the broad models of care outlined by Professor Lord Darzi in his report. Once this initial consultation is completed, the NHS will launch further consultation on specific proposals to implement the framework.

Given the pan-London impact of the Darzi review, a joint committee of London PCTs (JCPCT) are inviting all London Boroughs to consider appointing representatives to a Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC). The role of the JOSC would be to: (a) scrutinise the models of care outlined in the Darzi review and decide whether these are in the interests of the health service in London, (b) decide whether the consultation process is adequate, (c) examine the JCPCT's response to the consultation.

Significantly, the NHS have taken legal advice which states that under the health scrutiny regulations, Boroughs will only have the legal power to scrutinise the Darzi review as part of the JOSC and not as individual Borough OSCs. This advice states that a JOSC must be set up to consider not just the models of care in the Darzi review but also the adequacy of the consultation process.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Given the above, Hillingdon has taken the necessary decision to take part. In my role as Chairman of the London Scrutiny Network I have spoken to several of you already and know that your authorities are also taking the necessary steps to enable participation in the JOSC. Equally, some Boroughs may decide not to participate. However, I understand that not all Boroughs have reached a final decision as to whether to participate, and a letter has been sent asking for a possible postponement to the consultation.

The NHS have yet to indicate whether the consultation could be delayed. As it presently stands, the consultation is due to start on 29th October and run for 14 weeks until 1st February. I have spoken to Councillor colleagues in other Boroughs and we feel that those Boroughs that want to take part in the first stage consultation must be in a position to do so and must also plan for the consultation proceeding as planned in just over a month's time. We therefore feel that it would be helpful for those Members who have already been appointed to the JOSC to meet as soon as possible. This informal meeting would aim to discuss potential terms of reference and work programme for the JOSC.

These colleagues and I are suggesting two possible dates to meet, at a location to be arranged:

- **afternoon of 26th October or**
- **morning of 30th October**

Please can you either email me (mo'connor@hillington.gov.uk) or call me (01895 250316) with your response. I would be happy to discuss any concerns you may have.

Finally, many of you may already know that Ruth Carnall, Chief Executive of NHS London will be attending the next meeting of the London Scrutiny Network on 11th October to answer Scrutiny Councillors' questions. The meeting starts at 10am at London Councils. I hope to meet as many of you as possible then.

Kindest regards

Cllr Mary O'Connor
Chairman – London Scrutiny Network
LB Hillingdon External Services Scrutiny Committee