

IMC 449

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Dear Colleague

Today the Government has set out its vision for the future of the NHS and I am delighted to share with you a copy of *'Equity and Excellence; Liberating the NHS'*.

I have met many of you in my few months as Secretary of State for Health and from my time as Shadow Health Secretary and shared my vision for the future of the health service. This is one that focuses on patients, empowers clinicians and achieves health outcomes and quality health services that are amongst the best in the world.

Patients will be at the heart of everything that the NHS does, treated as individuals and enabled to take part in shared-decision making. There will be no decisions about me without me. This will involve an information revolution, arming patients and clinicians with more transparent information, helping patients to make more informed choices and hold health services to account.

Our ambition is for an NHS that achieves outcomes that are among the best in the world; there will be a shift to concentrate on outcomes rather than targets which focus on structures and processes.

The NHS's biggest asset is the staff who work for it and clinicians will be empowered to deliver results, setting them free to make decisions for their patients. This will involve, for example, enabling GPs working with other clinicians to commission services for their local communities, leading to improved health outcomes.

We are consulting on the White Paper between now and 5th October, and we are seeking views from organisations such as yours, and the people that you represent.

Additionally, a number of supporting engagement and consultation documents will be issued in the following weeks and months to seek your views on more detailed aspects of the White Paper. In the next few weeks we will be consulting on:

- Commissioning for Patients;
- Local Democratic Legitimacy in Health;
- Freeing Providers and Economic Regulation and
- The NHS Outcomes Framework

We will also publish a report on the Arms Length Body Review.

The White Paper and related documents will be published in a dedicated section of the Department of Health website:

www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingthenhs

There you will also shortly be able to find a number of resources which may be useful in prompting discussion with your members. This includes a PowerPoint presentation on the main points of the White Paper and a summary leaflet for patients

You can respond to any of these consultation and engagement documents by emailing nhswhitepaper@dh.gsi.gov.uk or writing to the address below by 5th October.

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I look forward to working with you as we enter this exciting time for the NHS.

Many thanks in advance for your cooperation.



ANDREW LANSLEY CBE MP