

16 October 2008

Frances Blunden
Senior Policy Manager
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Dear Frances

Subject: Focus Groups for the assessment of risk of different services

You will be aware that we consulted earlier this year on the new registration framework for health and adult social care, to be introduced in April 2010. The consultation closed on 17 June but the document can still be found on the DH website at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Closedconsultations/DH_083625. We are still analysing and considering the responses to the consultation and will publish the Government's response in due course.

In the meantime, one of the key messages we received in the consultation responses was that we should develop a more robust evidence based approach to setting criteria for inclusion within the scope of regulation.

We want to ensure that decisions on which activities are within the scope of regulation are as consistent, objective and as accurate as possible, and are based on the best information available.

To help us to achieve this we are now holding a series of workshops with experts to seek their input on:

- the available evidence on the likelihood and severity of risks for service users in the different service areas under consideration;
- their expert judgement to give estimates of likelihood and severity for activities where no robust statistical evidence is obtainable,
- and the available evidence on the ability of system regulation to reduce these risks (again potentially supplemented by expert judgements).

My reason for writing to you now is to invite you to nominate a member of your organisation with expertise in data and information to attend - see the details below.

We are looking specifically for people with some understanding of the risks to users of different forms of care or treatment, and an understanding of how regulation can influence these risks.

The workshops will cover specific subject areas, and will take place on the following days (all at 2pm, venues to be confirmed):

Monday 17 November	Efficacy of regulatory intervention – (a) (all services)
Tuesday 18 November	Mental health – (b) (including, for example, counselling, psychotherapy and befriending)
Wednesday 19 November	Other health care – (c) (including, for example, therapies (non psychological), lasers and lights, slimming clinics, patient transport etc)
Thursday 20 November	Adult social care – (d)
Monday 24 November	Primary care – (e) (including, for example, GPs, dentists, pharmacies, optometry, family planning and telemedicine)

- We would like to ask you to nominate an expert for the following workshops:
- **(b) - Mental health**
- **(c) - Other health care**
- **(e) - Primary care**

You may wish to nominate different people to attend different workshops.

If you are able to help and suggest one of your colleagues, or if you want further information about the workshops, please contact my colleague Lucas Porsch (lucas.porsch@dh.gsi.gov.uk or 020 7210 5439) who will be happy to help.

Yours Sincerely



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