Health and Social CAre: reform and transformation

Getting the structures right

**consultation Response Questionnaire**

# CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE

## Responding to the consultation

You can respond to the consultation document by e-mail, letter or fax using the this questionnaire.

If this document is not in a format that suits your needs, please contact us and we can discuss alternative arrangements.

Before you submit your response, please read Annex A about the effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.

Responses should be sent to:

E-mail: HSCReform@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Written: HSC Reform

DHSSPS

Annex 1, Room1

Castle Buildings

Stormont Estate

Belfast, BT4 3SQ

Tel: (028) 90522177

Fax: (028) 90522244

**The closing date for responses is 12 February 2016**

## Personal details

I am responding: as an individual

 on behalf of an organisation

 (please tick a box)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Job Title: |  |
| Organisation: |  |
| Address: |  |
|  |  |
| Tel: |  |
| Fax: |  |
| e-mail: |  |

## Background

On 04 November 2015, the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Simon Hamilton MLA, announced his intention to reform the administrative structures for Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland. The accompanying document sets out the case for change and seeks views on the preferred option for reform. This questionnaire should therefore be read in conjunction with the full report.

The questionnaire can be completed by an individual health professional, stakeholder or member of the public, or it can be completed on behalf of a group or organisation.

**Part A:** provides an opportunity to answer questions relating to specific proposals and/or to provide general comments on the proposals.

**Part B:** provides an opportunity for respondents to give additional feedback relating to any equality or human rights implications of the proposals.

# PART A

## Q1. **Do you agree that there is too much complexity in the current system and that it is not working to its optimum capacity?**

Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

|  |
| --- |
| Comments: |

## q2. DO YOU SHARE THE MINISTER’S VIEW THAT THE SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE BETTER AT ENABLING AND SUPPORTING INNOVATION?

Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

|  |
| --- |
| Comments: |

## Q3. Would reduced bureaucracy in terms of HSC structures allow the system to respond more quickly to changing demands?

Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

|  |
| --- |
| Comments: |

## Q4. Will bringing performance management into the Department help to improve lines of accountability?

Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

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| --- |
| Comments: |

## Q5. The Donaldson report and the Department’s Review of Commissioning both concluded that a full, competitive commissioning process is too complex and transactional for an area as small as Northern Ireland. Do you agree?

Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

|  |
| --- |
| Comments: |

## Q6. Do you agree that Trusts are best placed to assess local needs and should therefore have a greater level of responsibility and autonomy for planning services in their area?

Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

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| --- |
| Comments: |

## Q7. Do you agree that these are the right structural changes to make to streamline and simplify the Health and Social Care system?

Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree Strongly disagree

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| --- |
| Comments: |

# Part B

## Equality Implications

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Department to “have due regard” to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; between men and women generally; between persons with a disability and persons without; and between persons with dependants and persons without.  The Department is also required to “have regard” to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of a different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The Department has also carried out an equality screening exercise to determine if any of these recommendations are likely to have a differential impact on equality of opportunity for any of the Section 75 groups. At this stage, it is considered that a full Equality Impact Assessment will be required. We are waiting for some supporting information to complete the Screening. It will be published on the Department’s website when complete.

We invite you to consider the recommendations from a section 75 perspective by considering and answering the questions below. Answering these questions will contribute to the completion of the Department's Screening template and the screening outcome.

## **Q1.** Are the actions/proposals set out in this consultation document likely to have an adverse impact on any of the nine equality groups identified under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998?   If yes, please state the group or groups and provide comment on how these adverse impacts could be reduced or alleviated in the proposals.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  |  No |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Comments: |

## **Q2.** Are you aware of any indication or evidence – qualitative or quantitative – that the actions/proposals set out in this consultation document may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations?  If yes, please give details and comment on what you think should be added or removed to alleviate the adverse impact.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  |  No |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Comments: |

##  **Q3.** Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations? If yes, please give details as to how.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  |  No |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Comments: |

## **Q4.** Are there any aspects of these recommendations where potential human rights violations may occur?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  |  No |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Comments: |

**Please return your response questionnaire.**

**Responses must be received no later than 12 February 2016**

**Thank you for your comments.**

# Annex A

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor’s Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

* The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department’s functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
* The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties “in confidence” which is not confidential in nature;
* Acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner’s Office (or see web site at: [**http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/**](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/)).

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