

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

9th February 2012

Dear Prime Minister,

The Allied Health Professions Federation, the federated body representing the twelve allied health professional bodies, has been concerned from the outset with some of the reforms to the NHS implicit in the Health and Social Care Bill and associated implementation plans.

Even following the Government amendments published last week the AHPF still has grave concern around two broad areas:

- The competitive approach to the delivery of health and social care as proposed by the H&SC Bill could well discourage integrated care pathways leading to fragmentation of services. This would adversely impact on patient care both in the short and the longer term.
- It is inappropriate to impose a major top down structural reorganisation on the whole of health and social care at a time of required and unprecedented efficiency savings of £20bn by 2015. These savings need to be driven by clinician led service redesign without those same clinicians being distracted by wholesale system change.

The AHPF has sought to engage positively with the government at all stages including having a substantive input into the Future Forum NHS Listening Exercise. Sadly it seems that our views and those of many of our clinical colleagues in other professional bodies and Royal Colleges are not being taken on board.

We firmly believe that the legislation and implementation guidelines as currently proposed contain a genuine risk to the continued and sustainable provision of a health and social care service that meets the needs of patients and sustains the values of the NHS enshrined in the NHS Constitution.

Therefore we feel we are put in a position where we have no choice but to inform you that the AHPF feels unable to support the Bill in its current form. We ask that you listen to, and act on, the concerns raised by us and others whilst there is still time.

Yours sincerely



Gill Dolbear MSc PgCL&T DCRR DMU
Chair
Allied Health Professions Federation