



JOINT MEDICAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL  
[www.jmcc-uk.org.uk](http://www.jmcc-uk.org.uk)  
Chairman: Alan Russell FRCOG

Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP  
Secretary of State for Health  
Department of Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

04 January 2010

Dear Mr Lansley,

Thank you for your response to our initial thoughts on the White Paper. We are glad you found our comments useful and that they will be considered when drafting the Health Bill. Following the last meeting of the JMCC, the Council is keen to hear how you envisage collaborative commissioning working in practice.

Throughout the White Paper on Health Care, commissioning is referred to as 'GP led commissioning' – and we agree with this; World Class Commissioning can only be achieved by all health care professionals (be they in primary or secondary care) working together.

At present there is great variation in what services are commissioned by the different Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), and we are concerned that unwarranted variation may continue under GP Consortia Commissioning bodies, particularly if decisions are not evidence-based, and not informed by collaborative working with their hospital specialist colleagues.

Effective GP led commissioning will require the full range of clinical and professional input alongside that of local people, as you state in your letter, but how will this be achieved? We strongly urge that productive engagement between GPs and hospital specialists be deliberately designed into the system in the Health Bill that is being prepared.

Any re-design of the health care service must be done for the benefit of patients, and that this can only be achieved through collaborative working between all health care professionals who have their interests at heart. Once again, we would like to offer you further support in developing the details of these proposals.

We hope you find this helpful and would welcome your comments and further attendance at our meetings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AR', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alan Russell  
Chairman, Joint Medical Consultative Council (JMCC)