

Monday 21 June 2010

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Dear stakeholder,

REVALIDATION CONSULTATION: OUR NEXT STEPS

Thank you for responding to our consultation on proposals for the introduction of revalidation for doctors licensed to practise in the UK. As you may be aware, the formal consultation closed on Friday 4 June. We do appreciate your insights and the way in which your organisation has helped to encourage interest and participation in this important work.

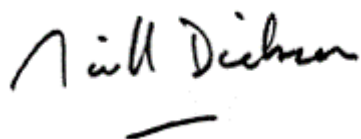
We have received several hundred responses from individual doctors, patients and employers and, with your help, we have spoken to thousands more at events, meetings and workshops across the UK. Overall, the feedback has been constructive and thoughtful and we are grateful to everyone who has taken the time to consider our proposals in such detail. The various responses will help us to shape how revalidation will work in practice, making it as flexible as possible for doctors wherever they work.

We are planning to spend the next few months carefully reviewing the responses that we have received, and we expect to report our findings and conclusions to our Council in the early autumn. We intend to publish a response to the consultation shortly afterwards.

The decision by the Department of Health in England to extend the period of piloting in England should ensure that the plans are tested thoroughly before they are used everywhere. However, this does not mean any lessening of our resolve – as the Secretary of State has indicated, patients expect revalidation to happen and I believe all of us who are committed to bringing this about believe it is integral to the drive for quality.

The formal consultation may now be over, but we believe it will be vital to maintain the momentum and to continue to listen and adapt. We can only do this with input and advice from our partners and key interest groups, and we are keen to continue working with you to ensure that revalidation commands the confidence of doctors, employers and patients.

With best wishes,



Niall Dickson
Chief Executive