

Andy Slaughter, Labour MP for Hammersmith
Shadow Minister for Justice
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A 0AA



North West London

NHS North West London
Southside, 105 Victoria
Street London
SW1E 6QT

06 December 2012

Dear Mr Slaughter

Thank you for your email of 10 November. I apologise for the delay in responding due to a technical matter with the Information Technology internal controls systems at the Cluster.

I would like to assure you that the NWL Cluster Board and its sub committees have put into place very high standards of governance arrangements. This includes a public Register of Declaration of Conflicts of Interests which is held within my corporate office for recorded declarations in line with good practice. Any member who declares an interest in a meeting is expected to take no part in discussions and step out of the meeting. To support this policy all of the meetings of the NWL Board and its sub committees, public and private, have a standing agenda item entitled 'declarations of interest' to enable members to declare any interests at the commencement of business in a meeting. If interests are disclosed the Corporate Secretary and/or administrator records the interest/s within the minutes and if appropriate enters the declarations onto the Register. The Register is presented to a public Board meeting annually and is formally recorded within the minutes of that meeting.

It is government policy for clinicians to commission and provide NHS services. In relation to the issue you raise regarding the sale of an Out of Hours provider Harmoni to Care UK. I am aware through the Cluster Register of Declarations of Interests that some GP Chairmen of the emerging Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have declared holding shares in Harmoni. This is normal practice in private and public sector that Registers of Declarations of Interests are held to ensure openness and transparency in all business meetings.

The NWL reconfiguration programme 'Shaping a Healthier Future' (SaHF) proposals are overseen and governed by the North West London Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts. The membership does not include any CCG Chairs but the NWL Cluster Medical Director is a member and has disclosed his one share in Harmoni in line with our governance requirements. I can assure you that no decision will be taken as part of SaHF to tender or commission services as this programme is about the reconfiguration of services to enable the optimum levels of services for patients and carers.

North West London

The members of the JCPCT who are the decision making body for the SaHF programme have all declared their interests for anything they perceive to require disclosure in line with our policy and nothing has been disclosed by a member that indicates they will realise direct or indirect financial benefit.

In addition, all our procurement processes adhere to strict governance arrangements whereby companies and suppliers are vetted in accordance with all rules and regulations set out for the NHS.

I am in the process of meeting numerous MPs regarding the current work to improve services for patients and carers in North West London. I would be pleased if you contact lynne.spencer@london.nhs.uk to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Yours sincerely



Dr Anne Rainsberry
Chief Executive, NHS NW London