

BY EMAIL

Richard Jeavons
Director of Specialised Commissioning
NHS England

5 August 2015

Dear Richard

I am writing to you as Chair of the PPVAG, which has been asked to comment on the recent consultation concerning the principles and process underpinning NHS England's prioritisation of spending decisions. These comments are without prejudice to the parallel consultation on specific commissioning policies.

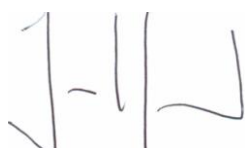
The PPVAG supported a 12 week consultation and saw much to commend in NHS England's engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and the use of diverse ways in which people were able to contribute. However the PPVAG cannot offer assurance around the consultation because of deficiencies in NHS England's response to the submissions received. In particular, the report by Essex University admirably consolidated these comments and found significant areas of consensus between them but without eliciting a meaningful response from NHS England.

We recognise that NHS England was under time pressure at the back end of the consultation given its desire to reach decisions on a lengthy backlog of commissioning policies. Indeed, we flagged up in April our serious concern that NHS England's response would consequently be inadequate. This explanation cannot, however, provide mitigation for assurance purposes.

We understand and welcome NHS England's intention to give the consultation responses more considered assessment and would see this process and detailed feedback to stakeholders as an essential step which should precede any further engagement on the subject of prioritisation.

For the future, we would urge NHS England to look at consultations as an end-to-end process with the response to engagement attracting as much attention as the engagement itself. We would be happy to work with your colleagues in bringing this about.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Stamp'.

Jason Stamp – Chair, Patient and Public Voice Assurance Group