

POLICY FOR THE PROVISION OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (HSC) LAUNDRY AND LINEN SERVICES

CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE

February 2014

Policy for the Provision of HSC Laundry and Linen Services

CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE

Introduction

You can respond to the consultation document by e-mail or letter.

Before you submit your response, please read Appendix 1 about the effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.

Responses should be sent to:

E-mail: infrastructure.investment@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Written: Investment Directorate
 DHSSPS
 Room D1
 Castle Buildings
 Stormont Estate
 Belfast, BT4 3SQ

Telephone: (028) 905 23246

Responses must be received no later than 5pm on 28 April 2014

I am responding: as an individual ☐
 on behalf of an organisation ☐
 (please tick a box)

Name:	
Job Title:	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Tel:	
Fax:	
e-mail:	

Background

The provision of adequate laundry services is an essential component of the healthcare system and a fundamental requirement of patient care. The Department has developed a policy for the provision of HSC laundry and linen services which focuses on laundry services provided for or purchased by the HSC sector for patients on hospital sites in Northern Ireland, including facilities for people with a mental health condition or disability. It provides guidance on the future in which key interdependent criteria of quality, risk management and value for money must be satisfied and also sets the backdrop by which future redevelopment or rationalisation of laundry provision is carried out.

The policy has a number of aims and key principles to cover all aspects of HSC laundry and linen service provision. The key principles and actions within the main body of the document are set out in an Action Plan and it will be the role of the proposed Regional Laundry Implementation Group to take these forward.

Purpose

This questionnaire seeks your views on the draft Policy for the Provision of HSC Laundry and Linen Services and should be read in conjunction with the policy document. The questionnaire also seeks views on the equality implications of the draft policy.

Completing the questionnaire

The questionnaire can be completed by anyone who has an interest in the provision of these services and can be completed by an individual or on behalf of a group or organisation.

Q1. Is the policy document easy to understand?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Q2. Do you agree that the policy document adequately allows for the provision of laundry and linen services that can be implemented by Trusts after appropriate local consultation?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Comment:

Q3.Do you agree with the key principles of laundry and linen services provision in the health and social care sector as outlined in the policy document?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Q4.Do you agree that the key principles and the way forward (including the Action Plan) as detailed in the policy represent best value taking account of the resources available?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Equality implications

Q7. Is the draft policy likely to have an adverse impact on any of the nine equality groups identified under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, please state the group or groups and provide comment on how these adverse impacts could be reduced or alleviated in the proposals.

Q8. Are you aware of any indication or evidence – qualitative or quantitative – that the draft policy may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, please give details and comment on what you think should be added or removed to alleviate the adverse impact?

Q9. Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations?

Yes

☐

No

☐

If yes, please give details as to how.

Q10. Are there any aspects of the draft policy where potential human rights violations may occur?

Yes

☐

No

☐

If yes, please give details as to how.

Further Comments

Please provide any other comments or suggestions that you feel could assist in the development and/or delivery of this policy.

**Please return your response questionnaire.
Responses must be received no later than 5pm on 28 April 2014
Thank you for your comments.**

Appendix 1

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature;
- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>).

Appendix 2

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Department to “have due regard” to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; between men and women generally; between persons with a disability and persons without; and between persons with dependants and persons without. The Department is also required to “have regard” to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of a different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The Department has carried out a preliminary equality screening exercise to determine if this Policy is likely to have a significant impact on equality of opportunity and should therefore be subjected to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA). The Department has concluded that an EQIA is not appropriate for a number of reasons, for example:

- The preliminary screening and engagement with key stakeholders to date has showed no evidence of any adverse impact on different groups.
- The Policy is intended to improve laundry services for all HSC patients, and staff, regardless of their circumstances and background.

Produced by:

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