

Mr Malcolm Alexander
30 Portland Rise
London
N4 2PP

11 June 2007

Dear Mr Alexander

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill

Steve Lowden told me you had asked if I could provide advice on the Parliamentary process and possible timings for the Bill.

I attach the latest version of the timeline for the Bill. Later stages are provisional as dates are usually only announced one week to ten days in advance.

Please get in touch if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely



Laura Bruni
Parliamentary and Public Affairs Manager

**Possible Timeline for legislative process showing main stages of the Bill
& possible timetable for Health Select Committee Inquiry**

13 December 2006	First Reading of Local Government and Public Involvement Bill in House of Commons	Formal reading out of Title of Bill; ordered to be printed. No debate
22 January 2007	Second Reading – two weekends usually elapse after First Reading	Main Opportunity to Debate Bill in principle – followed by Division and Programme Motion. All MPs take part and vote. Takes place on one day.
1 st February 2007 onwards	Committee Stage – usually starts two weeks after Second Reading. Could last several weeks. Bill could be delayed here.	Debate and vote on detail, clause by clause Amendments selected by Chairman may be debated and put to vote. Only MPs who are members of the Committee can take part and vote
1 February 2007	House of Commons Health Select Committee	First Evidence Session
8 February	Health Select Committee	Second Evidence Session
22 February	Health Select Committee	Third Evidence Session
1 st March	Health Select Committee	Fourth Evidence Session
8 March (PPI aspects discussed 6 th March)	Committee Stage ends	Latest version of Bill sent back to whole House
17 th May 2007	Report Stage – usually 2 weekends elapse between end of Committee Stage and Report Stage	A further chance for MPs to consider amendments, new clauses and propose changes. Usually lasts one day only. All MPs can take part and vote.
22 nd May 2007	Third Reading	Debate on principles of Bill as amended. Usually takes place on same day as Report Stage. No further amendments possible.
Late March ?*	Health Select Committee reports findings and makes recommendations	Select Committee Report Published
23 rd May 2007	House of Lords First Reading – no debate	Bill reprinted in form finally agreed by Commons
20 th June 2007	Lord Second Reading - two weekends elapse between First and Second Reading	Debate on general principle of Bill
July 2007*?	Committee Stage – usually starts at least 14 days after Second Reading. <i>Bill could be delayed here.</i>	Spread over days or weeks– all amendments can be considered and no restriction on debate. Can be on Floor of House of Lords or in

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		Committee
?*	Government Responds to Health Select Committee	Government Response Published
End July 2007?* or early October *?	Report Stage –at least 14 days after end of Committee Stage. <i>Bill could be delayed here.</i>	Further chance to table amendments – could be spread over several days
mid October *?	Third Reading – at least three sitting days after end of report stage	Further amendments may be made – final opportunity for peers to comment and vote on Bill
November 2007	Royal Assent	Bill becomes Act.

Note: dates marked *? are guesswork. Dates at which each stage will occur are announced about 10 days in advance. Other legislation is being debated at the same time and the Local Government Bill may not receive priority and could be delayed.

Text in bold italics indicates main points at which the debate/contents of Bill can be influenced.

The Government does not have to accept recommendations made by the Health Select Committee and there is no set date by which The Government has to respond although the convention is two months after publication of the report.