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Kate Davies
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Dear Ms Davies

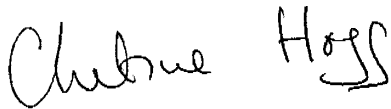
Failure to Involve Patients and the Public in the Commissioning of Immigration Detainee Healthcare

There is a statutory requirement in the Health and Social Care Act in S.13Q, for NHS England to consult with individuals to whom services are being or may be provided, including changes to commissioning arrangements, when these may impact on the services received. In our view the substantial changes taking place consequential to the transfer of commissioning of the healthcare for immigration detainees from the Home Office to NHSE, are of sufficient magnitude to require consultation with patients and the public.

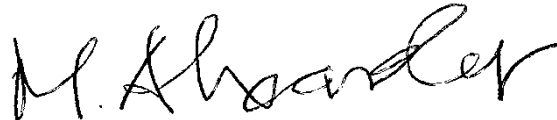
Medical Justice is the main NGO dealing with healthcare for immigration detainees. We deal with those in detention every day and are in touch with the other charitable and voluntary bodies with interest in this area, as well as ex-detainees. Although there was some talk a year ago of a standing arrangement for consultation with bodies such as ours, this has not progressed. The failure of NHSE to consult on Service Specifications, has already caused problems that might have been mitigated, had patients and the public been consulted.

We would like you to treat this as a formal complaint and to inform us of your proposals to ensure that there is consultation required by the Act in relation to IRCs healthcare provision in future.

Yours sincerely



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