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Commons Amendments Care Bill [HL]

Earl Howe (Conservative)

As noble Lords may know, the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee today reported on the amendments made in the other place to the Care Bill. It made two recommendations in relation to Amendments 32 and 46, which I am pleased to say the Government accept.

Accordingly, I have today tabled Amendments 32A to D and Amendments 46A to E to give effect to those recommendations.

Amendment 41 would require any trust special administrator to consult formally other trusts, their staff and commissioners, who may be affected by his or her draft recommendations. This would match the extended remit of the administrator under Clause 118 with an express wider consultation requirement, ensuring that the final recommendations are informed by a proper understanding of the issues facing the entire local health system. Amendment 41 would also strengthen public and patient representation in the regime by requiring the administrator to consult local authorities in whose areas affected trusts provide services and local Healthwatch organisations in those areas.

Motion on Amendment 41

Moved by Earl Howe

That this House do agree with the Commons in their Amendment 41.

- **41:** Clause 118, page 102, line 27, at end insert—
- "(5A) In section 65H of that Act (consultation requirements), in subsection (4)—
- (a) after "trust special administrator must" insert "—
- (a) ", and
- (b) at the end insert ", and
- (b) in the case of each affected trust, hold at least one meeting to seek responses from staff of the trust and from such persons as the trust special administrator may recognise as representing staff of the trust."
- (5B) In subsection (7) of that section, after paragraph (b) (but before paragraph (ba) inserted by section 84(10)(a)) insert—
- "(bza) any affected trust;
- (bzb) any person to which an affected trust provides goods or services under this Act that would be affected by the action recommended in the draft report;
- (bzc) any local authority in whose area the trust provides goods or services under this Act;
- (bzd) any local authority in whose area an affected trust provides goods or services under this Act;
- (bze) any Local Healthwatch organisation for the area of a local authority mentioned in paragraph (bzc) or (bzd);".
- (5C) In subsection (8) of that section, omit paragraph (e).
- (5D) In subsection (9) of that section—
- (a) after "trust special administrator must" insert "—

- (a) ",
- (b) after "subsection (7)(b)," (but before the insertion made by section 84(10)(b)) insert "(bzb),", and
- (c) at the end insert—
- "(b) hold at least one meeting to seek responses from representatives of each of the trusts from which the administrator must request a written response under subsection (7)(bza), and
- (c) hold at least one meeting to seek responses from representatives of each of the local authorities and Local Healthwatch organisations from which the administrator must request a written response under subsection (7)(bzc), (bzd) and (bze)."
- (5E) After subsection (11) of that section, insert—
- "(11A) In this section, "affected trust" means—
- (a) where the trust in question is an NHS trust, another NHS trust, or an NHS foundation trust, which provides goods or services under this Act that would be affected by the action recommended in the draft report;
- (b) where the trust in question is an NHS foundation trust, another NHS foundation trust, or an NHS trust, which provides services under this Act that would be affected by the action recommended in the draft report.
- (11B) In this section, a reference to a local authority includes a reference to the council of a district only where the district is comprised in an area for which there is no county council."
- (5F) In subsection (12)(a) of that section, after "subsection (7)(b)", insert ", (bzb), (bzc) and (bzd)."