



26<sup>th</sup> April 2007

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Dear Cynthia

### **Health Building Note 12-01 Eye Care Facilities**

Thank you for sending us a copy of this draft building note. Together the Association of British Dispensing Opticians, the Association of Optometrists, the College of Optometrists and the Federation of Ophthalmic & Dispensing Opticians represent the 10,000 optometrists and 5,000 dispensing opticians who provide high quality and accessible eye care services in the UK.

This document appears to have been very thoroughly thought through and we are pleased to note that there has been multidisciplinary involvement. We have a few comments, however, as follows:

1. We are pleased to note (p.8) that the document does not apply to primary care services which are normally provided by independent contractors on private rather than NHS premises. It would be for us as the relevant professional bodies to issue guidance here.
2. We would add to the definition of 'optometry' on p.9 the point that optometrists also examine the patient's eyes for disease using various techniques such as ophthalmoscopy, although in a hospital setting there are other professionals who would also carry out some of these functions.
3. We are pleased to see, and agree with, the statement that multidisciplinary working is becoming a common practice (p. 13)
4. Where colour vision assessment is anticipated it is desirable for the optometry room to have access to a daylight source (either natural and/or artificial).
5. In the figure 1 ('Range of possible clinical service components in an eye clinic') that was also attached it has the speciality of optometry as being dispensing and fitting of optical appliances.... We would suggest that this is only one of optometrists' specialities (and indeed is a specialty of a dispensing optician) and that optometrists' specialities are more to do with refraction and examining the eye. In hospital settings optometrists perform a very wide range of functions (as indeed do many other professional groups).

We hope this is helpful – if you have any queries please contact us.

Yours sincerely



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