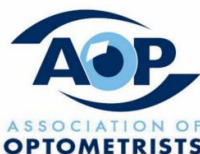




Association of British  
Dispensing Opticians



Email to: [nhsconstitution@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nhsconstitution@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> October 2008

## Department of Health Consultation on the NHS Constitution

Joint response from:

**The Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO)**

**The Association of Optometrists (AOP)**

**The College of Optometrists and**

**The Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians (FODO)**

Together ABDO, the AOP, the College of Optometrists and FODO represent the 11,000 optometrists, the 5,300 dispensing opticians and nearly 1,500 optical businesses in the UK who provide high quality and accessible eye care services to the whole population. NHS eye care services include those provided by our members in community optical practices and the NHS domiciliary eye care service for those who are unable to leave their own home unaccompanied.

We will confine our responses to the issues that specifically affect our sector.

### **1. Should all NHS bodies and NHS funded organisations be obliged by law to take into account the NHS constitution?**

We are generally supportive of the NHS constitution and its aims. Most NHS optical services are provided under the General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) by private businesses and the private work subsidises the NHS services that are provided. It is important to recognise that any additional obligations that may be required under a NHS constitution would have resource implications for these businesses, which should be reimbursed by the NHS. The current GOS fee does not cover any additional work and this would not be possible without additional funding.

### **5. Is the list of public and patient's rights clearly explained and accessible to all sections of the population?**

Yes, although some of them have resource implications for providers, which should be reimbursed by the NHS.

### **8. Is the list of pledges right? Which are the most helpful?**

Yes. Some of the pledges clearly have resource implications for contractors and their staff. These are not currently covered by the GOS contract, and so contractors would need reimbursement to comply with them if this was required by the NHS. We would welcome further discussion on this with the DH.

**11. Is the list of staff pledges right? Which are the most helpful?**

Yes. We recognise these as good practice and would be happy to work with the NHS to support employers to help them to fulfil their pledges.

**17. How do you think implementation of the Constitution should be monitored?**

We feel that the NHS should be sensitive to the market forces governing the optical sector and the fact that details of employment etc. could be commercially sensitive, as well as possibly requiring resources for the contractor to gather. We would be happy to explore the possibilities for this with the Department subject to the caveats about funding highlighted above.

For further information please contact:

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