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PRIME MINISTER

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NHS REVIEW: THIRD DRAFT

I have two comments on the White Paper after a cursory review of the draft, just received.

Para 3.2 Self-Governing Hospitals

'The Government anticipates that major acute hospitals will be the most suitable candidates for its proposals but, in due course, other hospitals may also come within their scope.'

This paragraph still gives the clear impression that smaller hospitals should not bother applying for self-governing status. These negative signals will deter the small entrepreneurial hospitals.

As in the 'pop' version of the White Paper, this - and any other - reference to this limitation should be removed.

Para 6.7 GP Practice Budgets

It would be helpful to repeat a sentence from para 10.9 of the Scottish Chapter in para 6.7:

'Smaller practices (in Scotland) will, however, be able to group together if they wish to do so in order to opt for GP practice budgets.'

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