

# **Directorate of Legal Services**

Practitioners in Law to the Health & Social Care Sector

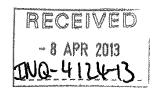
2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ DX 2842 NR Belfast 3

Your Ref: AD-0528-13

Our Ref: HYPW50/1 Date:

29th March 2013

Ms A Dillon Solicitor to the Inquiry Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths Arthur House 41 Arthur Street Belfast BT1 4GB



Dear Ms Dillon

# RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS- R FERGUSON PRELIMINARY

I refer to the above matter and to your letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013 (reference as quoted above). Using the same numbering as in your letter I confirm as follows:-

- 1. Please find attached a copy of the Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Services Trust (Establishment) Order (Northern Ireland) 1996.
- Please find attached a Sperrin Lakeland Trust document entitled "Incident Investigation Procedure for Acute Hospital Services Directorate". This document was retrieved from the former Sperrin Lakeland Trust intranet and our client understands this procedure was likely to have been in place in 2000. Please note this document was forwarded to you under cover of letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013 (Inquiry reference BMcL-0033-12).
- 3. Answer to follow.
- 4. Please find attached a copy of the Service Agreement between the WHSSB and Sperrin HSC Trust 1999/2000 2001/2002. Please note a copy of this document was forwarded to the Inquiry with Mr Tom Frawley's statement (WS/308-1) on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013.
- 5. Answer to follow.
- 6. I would respectfully suggest this request is directed to the DHSSNI as the Department may have a sequential list of these documents.

I will revert as soon as I receive further instructions from my client on the outstanding matters at numbers 3 and 5.

Providing Support to Health and Social Care







Yours sincerely John Johnston Solicitor

RF Preliminary - INQ

# The Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Services Trust (Establishment) Order (Northe... Page 1 of 3

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	1996 No. 116	
	HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES	
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that Order, ho	ant of Hostin and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conformed on it by Article 10(1) of, and paragraphs 1, 3, 3A, 4, Social Services (Northern Instance) Order 1991(1) and of all other powers emisting it in that behalf, having consulted the pore makes the following order:	o wat outstor) or boneouse a to, the Heath one or bodies referred to in Ardole 10(2) of
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	"establishment data" moore 25th Morch 1900;	
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	"operational data" has the mounting essigned to it by paragraph \$(1)(e) of Schedule 3 to the Order; "relevant functions" has the measure essigned to it by a said.	
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Estabilistana		
	hereby established an HSS trust which shall be called the Sperrin Lebatand Health and Social Services Trust.	
	enctions of the trust	
	trust is established for the purposes specified in Article 10(1) of the Order.	
(2) The trus chall be	its functions (which include functions which the Department considers appropriate in relation to the provision of services by	the trust for one or more relevant bodies)
(e)		Co. Fermanagh BT74 CAY, Tyrone and
(6)	to manage community-based health and personal social services provided from Scores Laterton Line Trees Place Line Control Line Line Line Line Line Line Line Line	
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18/02/2013

## The Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Services Trust (Establishment) Order (Northe... Page 2 6f3



(b) for the purposes of the statutory productors expecified in Part I of the Schoolste, the board government district of Farmanagh, Comagn and the behaving wants in the effects government district of Stretches, that is to any Castindary, Charge, the biboards between and Tufquetter, the wants of Glanders, Newtonessell, Plantindays (with the exception of the biboards treatment, that is to any Ballylastry and Manustamph) and the biboards treatments in the want of Glanders, Newtonessell, Plantindays (with the exception of the biboards treatments), that is to any Ballylastry and Manustamph) and the biboards treatments in the want of Victoria Bibliogs, that is to any Actions, Basily, Brudder, Candoness, Charles, Charles, Particles, Particles, Manustamph, States, Theorem and Universelly States, States, Restaurable, Candoness, Cando

6. The trust shall have, in addition to the chairman, 6 non-executive directors and 5 executive directors.

#### Operational data of the treat

6. The operatorial data of the trust shall be tot April 1998.

#### Unsted American before operational data

- 7. Oakseen its existificate and operatural date, the trust shall have the index functions of—
  - (a) entacting into HSS constructs;
  - (b) entering into other contracts including contracts of employment; and
  - (4) draing south other things as are resconsibly necessary.

for the purpose of enabling it to begin to operate satisfactority with other from its operational date.

#### been by a colorest body bully oppositional date

- 8.--(1) The Western Health and Social Services Board shall--
  - (a) until the operational date make such staff and facilities available to the trust as are required to enable the trust to carry out its limited functions pending the transfer or appointment of staff to or by the trust and the transfer of facilities to the trust;
  - (b) make excludes such previous as are required to enable the trust to carry out its funded functions pending the trensfer of those previous to the trust.
- (2) The Western Health and Bootal Services Board shall discharge the Substites of the Irust, incurred between the establishment date and the operational date, that are of a dan specified in paragraph (2).
- (3) The Sabilities referred to in paragraph (2) are-
  - (a) labelly for the remuneration and insvetting or other adounness of the chairman and non-executive directors of the trust
  - (b) Establish for the travelling or other allowances of the members of committees and sub-committees of the trust who are not also directors of the trust
  - $\langle \mathbf{d} \rangle$  . Exhibity for the remuneration of persons employed by the trust; and
  - (d) Estility for the remuneration of paracras employed by the trust for the purpose of enabling it to begin to operate satisfactority with effect from the operational date.
- (4) The relevant body specified for the purposes of personsch 3(1)(/) of Schedule 3 to the Order (relevant body which is to make the scheme under Article 11 of the Order for the transfer of staff) in relation to the trust shall be the Wostern Health and Social Services Sound.

#### Restriction on disposal of exects

9. The sum specified for the purposes of personals 6(2)(d) of Schedule 3 to the Order (maximum value of freely disposable assets) in relation to the irust shall be £500,000.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services on

LB

22nd March 1996

John McGrath Adaletant Secretary

SCHEDULE Corretional Area

Article 4

#### Pert I

Statutory Provision	
	Relevant Function
Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968(3)	All rolovent functions
Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(4)	All relevant functions
Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1978(6)	•
	All relevent functions
Matrimontal Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(6)	All relevent functions
Domestic Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1980(7)	All relevent functions
Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1988(8)	
	All relevant functions
Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987(9)	All referent functions
Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1989(10)	
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# The Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Services Trust (Establishment) Order (Northe... Page 3 of 3

#### Pert 0

Statutory Provision	Relevant Function
Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1969	Poliseant Bundons under Part VII and sendons 62, 94(2), 99, 105(2), 142, 144(1) and (2), 146, 152, 154 to 159, 189(2) and 164
Health and Personal Social Services (Horthern Ireland) Order 1972	Relevent functions under Articles 14A, 15, 36, 36A, 35(3) and (4), 99, 101, 101A and paragraphs 6 and 9 of 8chedule 6
Chroniculty Sids and Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1978	Relevant functions under section 2(c), (d) and (f)
Mental Hostel (Northern Ireland) Order 1998	Referent functions under Articles 8(1), 15(2), 22(1), 23(1) and (I), 25(1) and (Z), 42(4), 43(3), 44(3), 45(3), 79(3), 129 (1) and (Z), 131 and 132
Adoption (Horthern Ireland) Order 1987	Relevant functions under Articles 11(1), 13(3)(e), 24, 31, 32, 69(4) and 68

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE (This note is not part of the Order.)

This order establishes the Sperin Lekeland Heelth and Social Services Trust, an HSS trust provided for in Article 10 of the Heelth and Personal Social Services (Northern Invitant).

Order 1991.

The order provides for the functions of the trust both before (Article 2) and effect (Article 2) its operational date (the date on which it assurance of its functions). The functions include the example of retrievent statisticity functions which may be delegated to the trust by Health and Bockel Services Boards by virtue of euchysteptons made under Article 3(1) of the Health and Personal Social Bervices (Nothern Instant) Order 1904. Article 4 and the Schedule specify the operational areas within which the trust may eventue the delegated functions.

The order size specifies the operational date of the trust (Article 6) and makes provision for assistance to the trust by the Western Health and Social Services Services Social Services Ser

(1)	8.1. 1901/1194 (N.L. 1); Article 10(1) was amended, and paragraph 3A of Schoolule 3 was inserted, by S.L. 1994/429 (N.L. 2); peragraph 1 of Schoolule 3 is clied for the definition of "on order"
<b>(26)</b>	8.1. (50-4429 (ALL 2); the relevant functions are specified in B.R. 1994 No. 64
(3)	1968 e 34 (PLL)
(4)	8.L. 1972/1285 (H.L. 14)
(5)	1978 c. 53
(6)	3.1. 1978/1045 (N.1. 15)
m	S.I. 1690/003 (N.I. 5)
(8)	8.L 1086596 (N.L 4)
(9)	8.1 1997/7203 (N.1 22)
(10)	1069 c. 10

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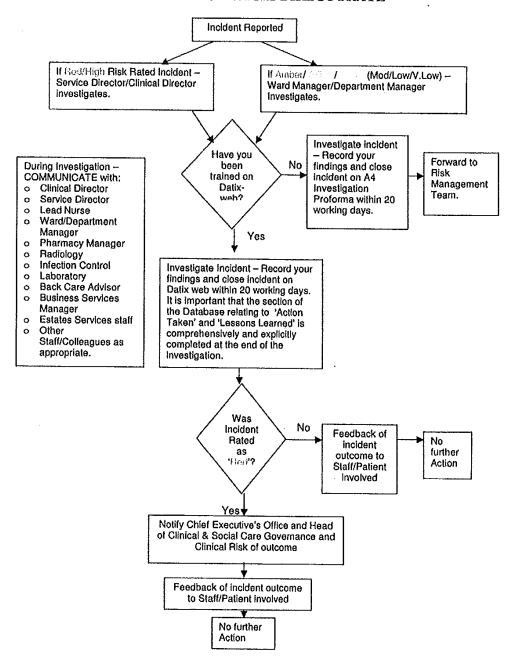
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# INCIDENT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE FOR ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE



## SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR **ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES** [POC 1]

**PURCHASER** 

Western Health and Social Services Board

**PROVIDER** 

Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust

**JUNE 1999** 

# WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SPERRIN LAKELAND HSC TRUST

#### introduction

- On 15 December 1998 the Health and Social Services Executive Issued Circular PC CDD 28/98 entitled 'Guidelines for 1999/2000 Service Agreements'. This guidence was published to assist commissioners and providers in developing an appropriate framework for the purchase and delivery of health/social care services.
- The key themes to emerge from this circular are intended to form the basis of service agreements in 1999/2000 and subsequent years. These relate to 7 2 core principles:

  - equity; promoting health and well-being
  - quality
  - a local focus
  - partnership
  - efficiency and openness accountability
- There is a continued emphasis on the need for service agreements to be drawn up covering a more strategic timeframe. Longer term agreements are intended to add a greater degree of stability to the commissioning process and enable more attention to be focused on issues such as: 3
  - assessing service needs and the effective delivery of appropriate

  - health/social care provision improving/enhancing the quality and outcome of treatment/care involving clinicians, other professionals, patients, clients, users and carers more in the development of clinical care outcome measures, quality standards etc.
  - adopting a shared approach to the management of financial risk

#### Strategic Context

- The Department's Regional Strategy document 'Health & Social Wellbeing: Into the Next Millennium' provides the framework for 4.1 improving acute care over the next number of years. This policy direction reflects the changing environment within which acute hospital services now operate. The overall aim is to ensure a better quality of treatment/care/investigation for patients in the future.
- In light of the Department's requirements the Board has completed a review of acute services and has developed a cancer services strategy. 4.2 The review process takes account of the various factors which will combine together to reshape the future provision of acute hospital care.

WHSSB/Sperrin Labeland HSC Trust

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In particular, this involves a critical review of the pattern of acute inpatient services which will continue to be purchased by the Board over the next few years.

4.3 It is important therefore that providers are fully aware of the Board's intention to make strategic purchasing shifts, in appropriate circumstances, over the period covered by this agreement. This may involve having to adjust the level of impatient activity being purchased in order to reflect shifts between provider organisations.

#### Clinical Governance

An increasingly important consideration for the delivery of acute hospital services is the concept of clinical governance. The Board will be adopting a proactive approach to this intitative to ensure that a structured and coherent clinical governance programme is in place within Trusts.

Clinical governance piaces clearly defined duties and responsibilities on health care organisations and individuals within them. To be effective, a clinical governance programme must include key elements such eq.:

- processes for recording and deriving lessons from untoward incidents, complaints and claims;
- a risk management programme:
- effective clinical audit arrangements;
- evidence-based medical practice; and
- a supportive culture committed to the concept of lifelong learning.

5.3 The Board intends to include clinical governance as a standing item which will feature prominently in its ongoing discussions with providers.

#### 6 Year 2000 Compliance

- 6.1 Year 2000 Compliance is the highest non-clinical priority for the HPSS (although it clearly has clinical implications). The provider will ensure that:-
  - A Y2K programme has been established in line with HSSE guidance;
  - All necessary steps are taken to ensure that it will not be adversely affected by the impact of the Year 2000;

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- Due cognisance is being taken of all Year 2000 issues impacting or likely to impact on the provision of Health & Social Services Care;
- Effective action is being taken to modify or replace critical products which are not Year 2000 compliant, or to establish effective contingency arrangements for products which will not be made compliant; and in particular to ensure that
- Year 2000 programmes include the development of effective contingency, business continuity and emergency (i.e. major incident) plans.
- 6.2 Furthermore the provider must ensure that agreements placed with other providers of care are aware of and will not be adversely affected by the Year 2000 problem.
- 6.3 In addition the provider must have signed up to the principles contained in Action 2000 Pledge 2000.
- 6.4 The provider should identify anticipated pressures and the measures which will be taken to deal with these pressures, and should reflect local assessment of additional or changed demand for Health & Social Services consequent upon:-
  - Millennium celebrations:
  - Extended Millennium public holidays:
  - Millennium date change induced failure or reduced reliability of equipment or any utility or other service essential to the continuity, safe operation or public access to the clinical and supporting services of the HPSS;
  - Possible failure of equipment or of any service essential to the care of patients at home, nursing home or otherwise in the community;
  - Public Health implications of possible failure of equipment or service necessary to the safe supply, storage or processing of food or water;
  - Possible interruption of communications or transport links upon which reinforcement and support of local HPSS services normally depend; and
  - "First in the new millennium" events throughout 2000 (and possibly 2001), which may continue to pressurise emergency services.

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#### 7 Partners to the Agreement

- 7.1 The partners to this agreement are the Western Heekin and Social Services Board (the purchaser) and the Sperrin Lakeland HSC Trust (the provider).
- 7.2 The term 'purchaser' will be used to refer to the Western Health and Social Services Board and the term 'provider' will mean the Spentin Lakeland HSC Trust
- 7.3 Where appropriate, it will continue to be the responsibility of GP fundholders to agree separate purchasing arrangements with the provider for their patients.

#### 8 Scope of the Agreement

- 8.1 The agreement will be used as a means to secure progressive and meaningful improvements in service provision through an open and collaborative approach.
- 8.2 This agreement will cover the provision of the following services by the provider to or on behalf of the purchasers resident population:
  - all completed consultant inpatient episodes occurring during the period of the agreement;
  - all completed consultant day case episodes occurring during the period of the agreement;
  - all outpatient attendances and treatments including ward attenders occurring during the period of the agreement;
  - the provision of diagnostic, therapeutic, paramedical, hotel and ancillary services for such patients;
  - diagnostic, laboratory and other services accessed directly by GPs for or on behalf of the Board's residents.
- 8.3 In addition the agreement will cover the provision of all Accident & Emergency attendances and treatments occurring during the period of the agreement.
- 8.4 The agreement is not intended to be a legally binding document but is designed to formalise a set of conditions which both partners will agree, to abide by:

#### 9 Agreement Period

9.1 The agreement is effective from 1 April 1999 and will continue in force for a period of three years up to 31 March 2002.

- 9.2 Throughout the period covering the agreement it will be necessary to keep activity levels and funding arrangements under close review.

  There will be an opportunity to formally renegotiate the terms of the agreement on an annual basis in order to ensure that the conditions continue to reflect changing circumstances as appropriate.
- 9.3 Where it is decided to implement planned change(s) to existing patterns of service provision it may become necessary to take future resource implications into consideration in terms of investment/disinvestment consequences.

#### 10 Activity Levels

- 10.1 The indicative activity levels set out at Schedule 1 of this agreement are intended to reflect the anticipated worldood to be dealt with by the provider. These take account of key issues such as needs assessment and current referral rates/patterns.
- 10.2 Every effort has been made to set realistic target volumes which take account of emergency and elective activity levels as appropriate. If during the course of the year a significant overfunder performance in activity is projected, suitable risk-sharing arrangements will be agreed for handling the variance.
- 10.3 it is recognised that these indicative volumes may have to be further refined over time to take account of changes taking place in referral preferences and the availability of service provision. As new referral pathways emerge the purchaser and the provider will undertake to keep variations in planned activity under close review and discuss them fully.

#### 11 Extra Contractual Referrals (ECRs)

- 11.1 In the case of non-emergency referrals made to a specialty not covered by this agreement, the provider will be required to comply with the arrangements contained in the HSS Executive's guidance on Extra Contractual Referrals (November 1995).
- Paragraphs 30 and 31 of Circular PC CDD 26/98 refers to the abolition of ECRs in England. It is understood that the Executive is encouraging, where possible, Boards and Trusts to comply with the Great British arrangements.
- 11.3 In the case of tertiary ECRs being arranged by the provider to hospitals situated etsewhere in Northern Ireland or in Great Britain, it will be necessary for consultant staff initiating such referrals to ensure that the purchaser is informed when the referral is taking place. Tertiary extra contractual referrals will be processed in accordance with the arrangements contained in the HSS Executive's guidance (May 1993).

WHSSB/Sportin Lakeland HSC Trust

#### 12 Service Fee

- The turchaser will pay the provider an overall annual service fee of the sum retains to acute hospital services has been calculated on the basis of the indicative activity levels and corresponding prices specified in Schedule 1 of this agreement. The service fee does not take account of the impact of General Practitioner Fundholding changes/developments for 1999/2000.
- 12.2 The sum relating to Acute Hospital Services has been calculated on the basis of the following:

POC No Programme of Care

Sum Allocated

1 Acute Services (Calculated on the basis of the indicative activity levels specified in Schedule 1)



12.3 The various terms and conditions relating to specific financial/ information requirements are set out in detail at Appendix 1 of the agreement.

#### 13 Waiting List Management

- 13.1 The provider should only admit patients from the waiting list on the basis of clinical priority. Common waiting time standards should be adhered to which reflect the guarantees laid down in the current Charter for Patients and Clients. Patients should be admitted for investigation/ treatment on the basis of clinical need, regardless of whether or not their GP is a fundholder.
- 13.2 The provider will make every effort to ensure that no Western Board patient has been waiting more than 18 months for inpatient or day case treatment or 13 weeks for an initial outpatient appointment.
- 13.3 In the event that the provider is not in a position to meet this commitment, it may be necessary for suitable waiting list initiative proposals to be developed in consultation with the purchaser.
- 13.4 The provider must ensure the accuracy of waiting lists and that patients who have already been treated or have died are removed from their lists. A validation exercise will be required for all patients prior to reaching twelve months inpatient/day case waiting time.

#### 14 Monitoring Arrangements

14.1 The purchaser and the provider will work in close co-operation to review the performance of the agreement. A monthly review meeting will be:

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held but both parties may decide to meet more frequently if this is deemed appropriate.

- 14.2 The provider will submit regular monitoring reports on activity levels and quality initiatives to the purchaser. Information on inpatient, day case and outpatient activity levels will be required on a monthly basis (see Appendix I for further details). Inpatient activity should be reported by specially on a finished consultant episode basis as well as indicating the corresponding levels of discharges and deaths.
- 14.3 Monitoring reports should include details of any cancelled admissions, complaints received from Western Board patients and the action taken to remedy them. As information systems become further developed the provider may be asked to supply details in respect of cancelled operations and clinics by specialty.
- 14.4 The provider will be required to furnish appropriate information on all cases identified with cancer to the Northern tretand Cancer Registry.

#### Quality Enhancement

- The provider will ensure that services provided are of the highest standard of quality achievable within available resources. A major objective of this agreement will be to secure an improvement in the quality and responsiveness of patient treatment/investigation/care. The purchaser may also wish to negotiate other specific quality improvements in discussion with the provider over the period covered by this agreement.
- 15.2 The provider will share details of its quality framework with the purchaser. This document should set out the various professional guidelines and policies being athered to; together with details of internal arrangements which are in place in respect of key activities such as:

  - admission/discharge policies medical, nursing and clinical audit procedures for handling complaints relevant staff training/development programmes any other relevant quality initiatives.
- Each specialty will be required to participate in clinical audit on a multi-disciplinary basis as appropriate. Individual professions will also be required to initiate audit projects in relevant circumstances. Audit projects should be designed to develop suitable guidelines and treatment protocols from which outcomes can be measured.
- 15.4 The provider will be required to carry out consumer surveys in collaboration with the purchaser in order to avoid unnecessary duplication. Views on the quality of service delivery will also be obtained from local General Practitioners and the Western Health and Social Services Council.
- 15.5 The provider will be required to adhere to current health, safety and relevant firecode procedures/policies as appropriate.

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## 16 Patient Discharge/Transfer Arrangements

- 16.1 The provider will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate arrangements have been made to facilitate the smooth transfer of a patient to another provider. In particular this will necessitate timely/proper consultation and notification between providers about the agreed handover of clinical responsibility/management.
- 16.2 Discharges from hospital to the community must be properly planned and co-ordinated. To this end the provider will be expected to have a written discharge procedure which is regularly reviewed and updated in consultation with purchasers, GPs and other relevant parties. This procedure should cover key issues such as:
  - protocols for communication with receiving provider, GPs, community care staff, relatives/carers etc.
  - information provided to patients about their condition, medication needs and any follow up appointments.
- 16.3 The provider will ensure the prompt dispatch of clinical discharge letters to GPs. The provider will be required to report on a regular basis to the purchaser about delays in issuing such letters.

## 17 Unsatisfactory Performance

- 17.1 The purchaser and the provider will adopt an open and constructive approach in terms of resolving any problems which may arise in relation to performance. Such issues will be resolved through discussion and negotiation with agreement being reached on a suitable course of action to remedy the problem.
- 17.2 In the unlikely event that there is significant or repeated failure on the part of the provider to meet agreed standards of performance or to implement an agreed course of action, it may become necessary for the purchaser to review the basis of the agreement.
- 17.3 The provider will ensure the prompt dispatch of clinical discharge letters to GPs. The provider will be required to report on a regular basis to the purchaser about delays in issuing such letters.

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18.1 Prior to completion of the agreement it will be necessary for the purchaser and the provider to agree suitable arrangements for jointly evaluating that services have been delivered to the standards and levels detailed in this agreement.

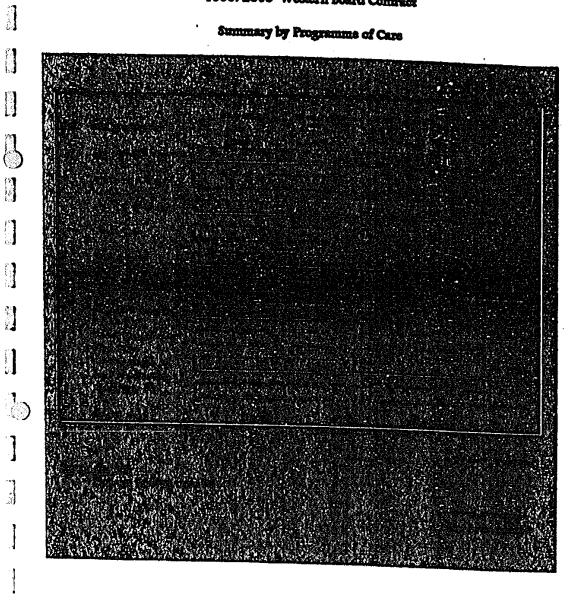
SIGNED: JOHAS FOLLY DATE: 2/8/99.

T J FRAWLEY
GENERAL MANAGER
[WHSSB]

SIGNED: A SHILLS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
[SPERRIN LAKELAND HSC TRUST]

SUMMARY

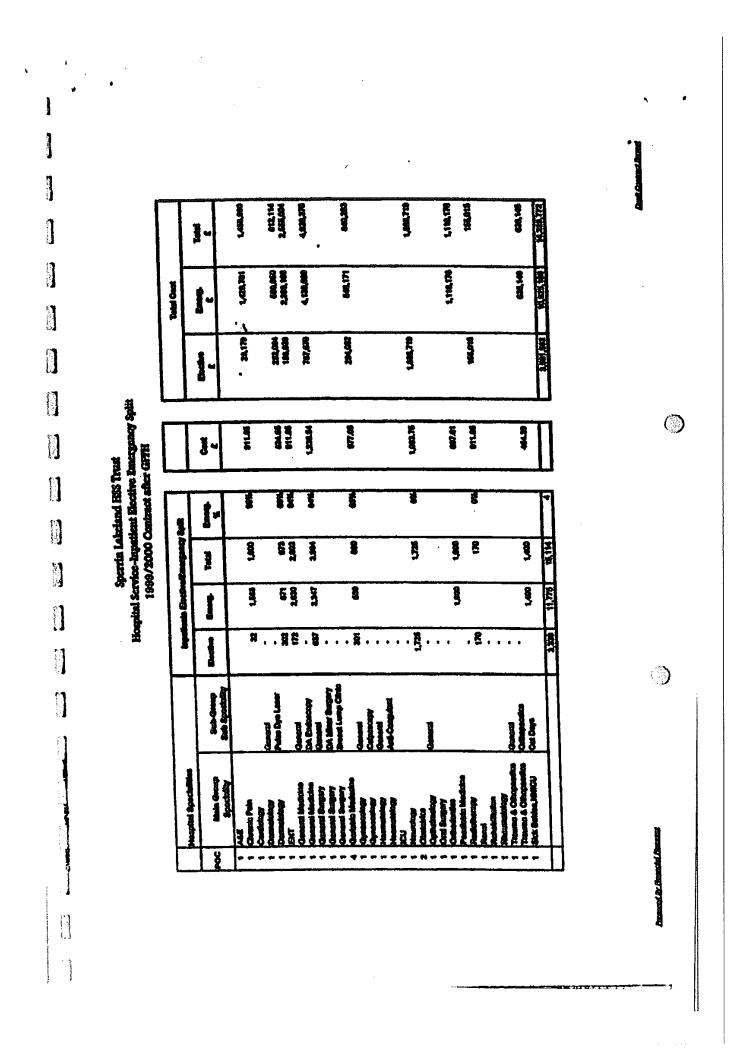
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#### APPENDIX I

## WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

# FINANCIAL AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

#### 1 Service Fee

- 1.1 The service fee is net of capital charges, the accounting treatment of which will be subject to whatever arrangements are determined by the HSS Executive. Pay and price inflation for 1999/2000 are included in the agreement at
- 1.2 The prices quoted will remain constant for the duration of the agreement and will only be adjusted by agreement in writing. Adjustments will only be made for in-year variations resulting from national or local approvals/ negotiations which impact on service costs and the related value of the agreement.
- 1.3 The provider will be responsible for managing the activity within the overall sum available. This will require the provider to monitor carefully the number of patients treated throughout the year and may necessitate the phasing of elective admissions having regard to Charter guarantees in order to remain within the maximum financial value of the agreement.

#### 2 Variation to Service Fee

- 2.1 Where practicable the provider will endeavour to manage the workload levels set out in Schedule 1 in such a way that each month accounts for about one twelfth of the indicative activity levels and around one twelfth of the total agreement value. This will be particularly important given the significant resource constraints being faced by the purchaser because of the cost improvement target imposed by Government.
- 2.2 There will be no variation to the service fee where inpatient/day case outturn activity levels, after allowing for differences across specialities, represent no more than the service fee.
- 2.3 Where outturn activity levels account for more than the of the service fee then any increase/decrease to the service fee payable will be calculated using an average marginal rate of the calculated using an average marginal rate (%) will be applied to any sum in excess of the original service fee. An example of how any such variation will be calculated is shown in the Appendix to this agreement.
- 2.4 Regular monitoring reports will be required from the provider so that variations in excess of **SECOLOGY** of the service fee can be identified at an early stage, and any remedial action agreed with the purchaser.

#### 3 Billing and Payment Arrangements

3.1 The purchaser will require the provider to submit a monthly invoice for payment of one twelfth of the agreed service fee. Invoices must include sufficient information to enable the purchaser to properly authorise payment and should include the following information as supporting documentation:

service level agreement reference number period covered by invoice numbers of patients treated by specially (see monitoring arrangement

- charge per patient
  charge per patient
  detailed patient related information including name, address, post
  code, date of birth, details of registered GP, date of consultation,
  date of admission, date of discharge, diagnostic code, OPCS
  code, consultant details etc.
- The purchaser will make prompt payment in respect of all valid accounts submitted by the provider. However in the event that the provider fails to furnish a full and accurate minimum data set within abx weeks of the end of the month of treatment/discharge for any inpatient, outpatient or day case treatments discussion will have to take place with the 3.2 purchaser on the Issue of liability.
- In accordance with Departmental guidance on exceptions to Charter waiting list guarantees patients who meet the criteria described for medical and self-deferrals will be separately identified and accounted for on the waiting list. These patients will not be subject to the 18 month inpatient/day case stipulation referred to at paragraph 10.2 of the main agreement.

#### Waiting List Information

During 1997/98 the four Boards and the Trusts worked to develop an anonymised waiting list data set extract for impatient and daycase lists. The purpose of this exercise was to standardise the existing waiting list information flows between Trusts and Boards and thereby reduce the worldoad for all parties. From 1 April 1999 the provider will be required to provide the standard waiting list data set extract within the timescales agreed with individual Boards. During 1999/2000 the Trusts along with the Boards will work to develop a similar standardised extract for outsetlent waiting lists. outpatient waiting lists.

#### 5 Monitoring Requirements

The provider will submit regular monitoring reports on activity levels and quality tritiatives to the purchaser. Information on inpatient, day case, outpatient activity levels and waiting list returns will be required on a monthly basis (by the 15th working day of each month). In addition the Provider will work with the Board to develop electronic data transfer.

#### **Charter for Patients and Clients** 6

The provider will strive to comply with all appropriate requirements and standards contained in the NI Charter for Patients and Clients. In addition the provider will be required to confirm the extent of its compliance with the purchaser's own Charter document 'Better Care'.

#### 7 Complaints Procedure

7.1 The provider will be required to implement the HSS Complaints Procedure and to ensure that arrangements for the local resolution of complaints are put in place. These arrangements should be described in a written Procedure and should be brought to the attention of the service users. Staff should receive appropriate training and support in the handling of complaints.

# 8 The Protection and Use of Patient and Client Information

8.1 The Provider will be expected to follow DHSS Guidance on the Patient & Use of Patient and Client information and the recommendations of the Caldicott Committee Report. Arrangements should be continually reviewed to ensure orgoing compliance with above named guidance and any further guidance issued. In addition, the provider will be required to comply with the Data Protection Act 1984 and Data Protection Act 1988 when implemented.

# 9 Public Access to Information about the HPSS

- 9.1 The Provider will be required to adhere to the principles outlined in the recent 'Code of Practice on Openness in the HPSS' published by HSS Executive.
- 9.2 In particular the provider will be expected to ensure that the following key aims of this Code are achiered to:
  - people have access to available information about the services provided by the HPSS, the cost of those services, quality standards and performance against targets;
  - people are provided with explanations about proposed service changes and have an opportunity to influence decisions on such changes;
  - people are aware of the reasons for decisions and actions affecting their own treatment and care;
  - people know what information is available and where they can get it.

#### 10 Conciliation and Arbitration

10.1 Both parties will endeavour to avoid the need for conciliation and arbitration having to take place through regular and constructive dialogue. However in the event of any dispute or failure to agree on any matter in relation to the agreement, the matter shall be referred for conciliation or, if necessary, arbitration in accordance with the machinery set out in the HSS Executive's guidance 'Resolution of Contractual Disputes' (June 1993).

WHSSB/Spervin Labeland HSC Trust

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