

17 September 2009

**To:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members

Dear Sir / Madam,

**The framework for Quality Accounts – a consultation on the proposals**

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Health has launched a public consultation on the proposals for the framework for Quality Accounts, and would encourage you to read these and respond to the questions.

Quality Accounts aim to improve public accountability and to encourage boards to drive improvements in the quality of care their organisations provide. They will be annual reports to the public, from NHS providers of healthcare, reporting on the quality of healthcare services they provide.

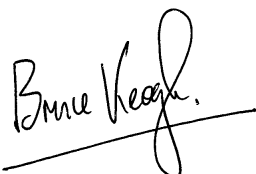
The consultation can be found at: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_105304](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_105304) and will run until Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Details of how to respond to the consultation are included in the consultation document.

The proposals stated within the consultation document, are drawn from a series of engagement, testing and other design processes, which have taken place since the vision for Quality Accounts was set out in *High Quality Care for All* (June 2008). Further background on these is included within the body of the consultation document. Events with OSCs members have played a key role in shaping these proposals, especially with regards to how members could be involved in Quality Accounts, and you will find reference to this proposed role in the document.

The results of this public consultation will be summarised into a report from the Department of Health, which will in turn inform the regulations and guidance for Quality Accounts, ready for their statutory introduction from April 2010.

I would value your participation in this consultation exercise, and encourage you to share this with others who you feel may also have an interest in responding.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sir Bruce Keogh  
NHS Medical Director, Department of Health

