

Dear

**Drug Treatment – Payment by Results**

On 3 August 2011 a consultation regarding Payment by Results in Drug Treatment closed. The consultation document was minimal and can be found at

<http://www.nta.nhs.uk/healthcare-pbr.aspx>

The Safer Stockton Partnership discussed the proposed payment model at a recent meeting, responding to the consultation as per the attached document. The Partnership noted the consultation was not regarding whether Payment by Results should occur, but how Payment by Results should be nationally applied.

You will see from the attached that the Partnership has significant concerns with the proposals identified in the consultation.

The Partnership wanted its concerns to be expressed to you. It also wished to affirm that, although it supports payment by results being identified and incorporated into individual contracts locally, it does not support an over-arching payment by results system that has the potential to fragment current positive operational partnership working.

Please accept this correspondence as an expression of the Safer Stockton Partnership's deep concern at the potential harm to localities that could occur if the proposed Payment by Results system is not significantly amended.

Yours sincerely



## Alex Cunningham MP Stockton North



Mr Geoff Lee  
Chair, Safer Stockton Partnership  
c/o Community Protection, Development and Neighbourhood Services  
PO Box 232  
16 Church Road  
Stockton on Tees TS18 1XD

Wednesday, 05 October 2011

Dear Geoff

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### Drug Treatment – Payment by results

Thank you for your letter and enclosures dated 28 September which I read with interest. I share the reservations you have about the way in which the system will work.

I think it is important that the questions you raise are properly addressed by the Government and to that end I intend to send him a copy of your submission with a covering letter to ensure we get a proper response for your Partnership.

I will be in touch again when I get a response.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Cunningham MP

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c/o Mike Batty, Head of Community Protection  
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16 Church Road  
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14 October 2011

*Dear Mr Lee*

Thank you for writing to me about the introduction of 'payment by results' strategies being proposed for drug treatment regimes.

I am pleased that your letter confirms your acceptance that the concept of payment by results has a place in driving up standards and increasing accountability. We may well, however, be at odds about the extent to which this radical proposal is capable of being successfully implemented.

The area in which you are involved is not alone in being required to consider more stringent measures of success. Recidivism in released prisoners, for example, may also be a key criterion for payment to service providers.

I enjoyed the provocative detail of your submission. I intend to forward it to the appropriate ministry for inclusion in the nationwide debate which the government is encouraging.

Yours sincerely,

*James*

James Wharton