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Consultation on Medical Revalidation

I am keenly aware of the commitment that the GMC, professional bodies, the NHS, independent sector, patient groups and devolved administrations have all shown to the task of developing, challenging and testing practical and effective approaches to the introduction of medical revalidation. I do, therefore, very much welcome your consultation, setting out the proposals that are the result of that commitment and collaboration. I look forward to seeing the outcome of the consultation and to understanding the way that it will help to shape the piloting and implementation of the policy.

Revalidation is something that the public expect their doctors to undertake and, if implemented sensitively and effectively, is something that will support all doctors in their innate professional desire to improve their practice still further. We need strong evidence on what works for both patients and the profession to ensure that this is the case.

For the NHS in England, having reviewed the current plans, I do not yet have sufficient confidence that there will be time properly to gather and evaluate evidence on all aspects of revalidation and to amend plans in the light of the current pilots in the NHS. I therefore intend to extend the piloting period for a further year to enable us to develop a clearer understanding of the costs, benefits and practicalities of implementation so that it can be paced in a way that is affordable, supports high quality care and makes effective use of doctors' time.