



**Genetic Alliance UK**  
Supporting. Campaigning. Uniting.

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Rt Hon John Healey MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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31<sup>st</sup> January 2011

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter dated the 27<sup>th</sup> January drawing our attention to the listing of Genetic Alliance UK as one of 51 organisations supportive of the principles of the current NHS reforms by the Minister for Care in a response to a written question by Luciana Berger MP.

Whilst it is true we are supportive of the *principles* underlying the current reforms such as patient-centred care, shared decision making, an emphasis on information, the recognition of the importance of measuring outcomes etc we also expressed concern about the extent to which the measures outlined in the consultation papers and in the Health and Social Care Bill to achieve these principles would benefit patients and families with genetic conditions in practice. Equally, whilst we support the ideas behind some of the structural changes proposed, for example, the establishment of the NHS Commissioning Board, we also expressed reservations about GP commissioning consortia and other proposals. We have outlined a number of concerns regarding the practical implications of the proposals in the White Paper and the Bill to which we await a response.

We are concerned that we have been listed as a supportive organisation in response to the question "which organisations have indicated...their support for plans for the internal reorganisation of the NHS" without qualification with regard to the concerns that we expressed. At no point in our responses to any of the suite of consultation papers did we indicate that Genetic Alliance UK is uncritically supportive of the reorganisation. There is a clear difference between supporting the principles outlined in the consultation papers and support for the internal reorganisation per se; the blurring of these two distinctions may create a misleading impression of Genetic Alliance UK's support for the Government's plans.

Thank you once again for bringing this to our attention.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Kent OBE  
Director, Genetic Alliance UK

The full responses to our consultation papers are available on our website:

<http://www.geneticalliance.org.uk/policycampaigns.htm>

Last week you will have also received a briefing outlining some of our areas of concern about the Health and Social Care Bill:

<http://www.geneticalliance.org.uk/docs/health-and-social-care-bill-briefing-from-genetic-alliance-uk.pdf>