



Department of Health

Jackie Smith
Chief Executive and Registrar
Nursing and Midwifery Council
23 Portland Place
London
W1B 1PZ

30 October 2015

Dear Jackie

NURSE AND MIDWIFE REVALIDATION

On behalf of the Department of Health (DH) and the England Revalidation Board, I am writing to give our response to the decision of the NMC Council on 8 October to introduce nurses' and midwives' revalidation.

During the last few months the Board has noted increased readiness across all sectors for the introduction of revalidation and recognises the work that has been undertaken by the NMC to respond positively to concerns and questions raised by the Board. This continued to be the case when the Board met on 9 September. We are grateful to the NMC for listening to the feedback from pilot sites and the England Revalidation Board and updating the guidance that you published on 8 October.

I am now content for revalidation to proceed in England from April 2016.

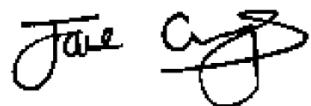
We would expect the NMC to introduce robust and thorough monitoring from the point of introduction, to evaluate the revised guidance, the impact of revalidation and to ensure that it delivers the intended benefits and does not have a negative impact on front-line care.

We would like NHS Improvement (Monitor/TDA) and others in the England Revalidation Programme Board to work closely with you during 2016/17 to monitor the on-going financial impact of revalidation. We would like to work with you to undertake evaluation across the whole system to ensure revalidation does not introduce unexpected cost pressures with any subsequent impact on frontline care, particularly in the NHS.

We are keen to work closely with you on the details of the approach.

The England Board stands ready to work closely with the NMC, and with the other UK countries, to increase awareness of and readiness for revalidation across all sectors and reduce any remaining risks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Cummings".

Jane Cummings

Chief Nursing Officer and Chair of England Revalidation Board