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| **Consultation Response Form****Consultation closing date: 3rd February 2014****Your comments must reach us by that date** |
| **Consultation on Procedures for the Approval of Independent Sector Places for Termination of Pregnancy** |

**If you would prefer to respond online to this consultation please use the following link:** <http://consultations.dh.gov.uk/abortion-clinics/approval-of-independent-sector-places-for-the-term>

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

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| Textbox | **Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.** |

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| Please specify | Reason for confidentiality:  |

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| Textbox | Please tick if you are responding on behalf of your organisation. |

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| TextBox | Name of Organisation (if applicable): |

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| TextBox | Address: |

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If your enquiry is related to the DH consultation process in general

This response form covers questions on the draft Procedures for the Approval of Independent Sector Places for Termination of Pregnancy.

**Consultation questions**

**Question 1.**

Do the updated RSOPs include the necessary requirements to ensure women receive a safe, high quality, service from independent sector abortion providers which meets the requirements of the Abortion Act?

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| DfE | Comments: |

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**Question 2**

Are there any other RSOPs or requirements that you think should be included? If so, what are they, and why are they needed?

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| DfE | Comments: |

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Question 3

Do you have any other comments you would like to make in relation to this consultation?

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| DfE | Comments: |

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This consultation follows the ‘Government Code of Practice’. In particular, we aim to:

* formally consult at a stage where there is scope to influence the policy outcome;
* consult for 8 weeks with consideration given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible;
* be clear about the consultation process in the consultation documents, what is being proposed, the scope to influence and the expected costs and benefits of the proposals;
* ensure the consultation exercise is designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people it is intended to reach;
* keep the burden of consultation to a minimum to ensure consultations are effective and to obtain consultees’ ‘buy-in’ to the process;
* analyse responses carefully and give clear feedback to participants following the consultation;
* ensure officials running consultations are guided in how to run an effective consultation exercise and share what they learn from the experience.

The full text of the code of practice is on the Better Regulation website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/bre/consultation-guidance/page44458.html

Comments on the consultation process itself

If you have concerns or comments which you would like to make relating specifically to the consultation process itself please

Contact

Consultations Coordinator

Department of Health

2e08, Quarry House

Leeds

LS2 7UE

e-mail consultations.co-ordinator@dh.gsi.gov.uk

**Please do not send consultation responses to this address.**

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation**

Completed responses should be sent to the address shown below by **17th January 2014**

Send by post to: Lisa Westall, Sexual HealthTeam, Department of Health, Room 124, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS.

Send by e-mail to: Lisa.Westall@dh.gsi.gov.uk