

# FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians, London

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Friday, 24 October 2008

Consultation on responsible officer regulations  
Department of Health  
Room 423 Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
London SE1 8UG

Dear Sir,

**Re: Consultation on Responsible Officers and their duties relating to the medical profession**

The Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine is grateful for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. In so doing, we wish to endorse the comments already submitted by the Medical Protection Society.

In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the responses to questions 2.5 and 2.6 as these apply to many of our forensic physician members who work solely in forensic and legal medicine as self-employed contractors and, thus, have no employing organisation. Table 2 of the consultation suggests that the Home Office (as employer) might have a duty to provide responsible officers for forensic physicians. It should be noted that the Home Office does not employ these doctors and, as we understand it, would not consider such a duty to be part of its role.

I trust these comments will be of use and would be happy to discuss them further.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Guy A Norfolk MBChB, LLM, FRCP, FFFLM, MRCGP, DMJ  
President