

Human Tissue Authority's response to the Care Quality Commission's "The Next Phase: Our consultation on our strategy for 2013 to 2016".

5 December 2012

Introduction

1. The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Care Quality Commission's "[The Next Phase: Our consultation on our strategy for 2013 to 2016](#)".
2. The HTA is a specialist regulator committed to working with its stakeholders to ensure that human tissue and organs continue to be stored and used safely, ethically and with proper consent, and that the bodies of deceased people are treated with respect and dignity.
3. As a regulator operating in the health sector, the HTA faces many of the same strategic challenges which the Care Quality Commission (CQC) identifies in its consultation document.
4. The HTA seeks to continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its regulatory activity and its advice and guidance. Its own [Strategic Plan 2012 to 2015](#) commits the HTA to working collaboratively with other bodies to reduce regulatory burden and improve the impact of our work.
5. The HTA's response to this consultation is limited to those questions which have bearing on the areas where the HTA and CQC can work together to meet the strategic aims of both bodies.

Consultation question 1

6. The HTA is extremely supportive of the CQC's intention to make greater use of information and evidence in guiding the regulation of services.
7. Significant work has already been undertaken during 2011 and early 2012 by the HTA and the CQC (along with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority) to ensure that information held on establishments that are licensed by more than one of these regulators is available to the others.
8. The HTA is committed to working with the CQC over the period covered by its strategy to identify further opportunities where information can be shared to deliver better regulation in the interests of the public and to reduce the burden on organisations providing the data.

Consultation question 2

9. The HTA is supportive of the CQC's proposals for managing its independence and working closely with strategic partners and other interested parties.
10. The Department of Health has recently consulted on the future organisational arrangements for the HTA. In its [response](#), the HTA made clear that it believed the continued existence of an independent HTA was the best way to ensure the continued effective regulation of tissue and organs and protect public confidence. The response also made clear our continuing commitment to collaboration with other organisations.
11. The HTA is keen to continue to work with the CQC over the period covered by its strategy to identify and realise improvements which will result in more effective regulation, and which will deliver better healthcare outcomes for the public.