

The Paterson Inquiry

A response from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

November 2018

1. The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges appreciates the offer to submit evidence to the Paterson Inquiry.
2. We discussed a possible Academy submission at the meeting of the Academy Council, which comprises the Presidents of all the Medical Royal Colleges, held on 21 November.
3. It was reported that several of our member organisations, particularly the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of GPs, have had direct engagement with the Inquiry submitting their views on the issues covered by the Inquiry.
4. The Royal College of Surgeons of England reported that it has been working closely with the Independent Healthcare Providers Network (formerly NHS Partners Network), the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP), and Private Healthcare Information Network (PHIN) to look at how to assure standards of care in the private sector. This has led to specific initiatives on how to extend clinical audits to cover private hospitals (led by HQIP with PHIN support), improving access to training in the independent sector (RCS), and establishing a common framework for oversight of consultant practice (led by IHPN).
5. In December the RCS Council will debate a paper which will outline further areas that require legislative or policy change to provide patients with assurance about standards of care in the private sector. The RCS aims to bring this to the AoMRC to seek wider support for these proposals from other colleges prior to sharing the document with the Paterson inquiry and government
6. In the light of the engagement by individual member organisations and the work underway from the RCS, the Council did not feel that there was any additional information that could usefully be submitted by the Academy as an umbrella body which would add to that already given by member organisations.