

‘The new NHS provider licence’ consultation

Thank you for inviting our comments on this consultation. The Optical Confederation represents the 12,000 optometrists, the 6,000 dispensing opticians and 7,000 optical businesses in the UK who provide high quality and accessible eye care services to the whole population. The Confederation is a coalition of the five optical representative bodies: the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO); the Association of Contact Lens Manufacturers (ACLM); the Association of Optometrists (AOP); the Federation of Manufacturing Opticians (FMO) and the Federation of Opticians (FODO). As a Confederation, we work with others to improve eye health for the public good.

This particular consultation is not relevant to community optical providers which are exempt from the CQC registration, and proposed to be exempt from Monitor regulation, as we are already covered by equivalent alternative, regulation as set out by the Department of Health in *‘Protecting and promoting patients’ interests – licensing providers of NHS services’*, and has been confirmed by Ministers in writing.

We are pleased however to remain on the circulation list for future consultations as our general experience of regulation may help Monitor in achieving its aims.

This response has been submitted by Ben Cook on behalf of the Optical Confederation.