



Monday, 07 August 2006

Dear Anna Quigley,

1. Amicus/The Community Practitioners and Health Visitors' Association (CPHVA) is the UK professional body representing registered nurses and health visitors who work in a primary care setting. CPHVA is a professional section of Amicus health, which has 100,000 members.
2. Amicus/CPHVA noted the consultation paper '**Tackling nuisance or disturbance behaviour on NHS healthcare premises**', which considers whether the government should legislate in order to deal with individuals posing a nuisance or creating a disturbance on NHS premises.
3. While acknowledging there are genuine concerns in this area, Amicus/CPHVA would like to express its increasing concerns in regards to the safety of healthcare professionals who operate outside of NHS premises, such as Community Practitioners and Health Visitors.
4. There are a number of measures the government could implement that would improve the working conditions and safety of healthcare professionals who carry out an invaluable aspect of healthcare delivery. These measures include providing all staff with self-defence training, supplying staff with mobile phones, and ensuring that staff double up when visiting areas known to be high risk, and when it is dark. Additionally serious consideration should be given to encouraging local authorities to issue parking permits to community practitioners in order that they may park near to the client/patients residence thereby reducing risk. We are disappointed that the scope of the consultation did not include these considerations. We hope that the government will soon consult with, and work alongside, Amicus/CPHVA in building such mechanisms to improve the safety of our members and healthcare professionals.

Yours Sincerely,

Gail Cartmail
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Karen Reay
Director, CPHVA

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