

The Lord Warner
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
the Department of Health
House of Lords
London
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24 September 2004

Dear Lord Warner

The future of ProCure 21

Thank you for your letter of September 15 replying to mine of August 23 regarding ProCure 21 and NHS Estates' future.

The underlining desire to strengthen the work of the arm's length bodies including NHS Estates is clear and welcome. It is interesting to note the somewhat unambitious target to which you see ProCure 21 contributing, viz "the Government is keen to promote good quality hospital and primary care facilities for patients that are delivered within time and budget". Our ambition is far greater – the opportunity is for world-class facilities that enable far superior quality of patient care ever-faster and at ever-lower costs. ProCure 21 has the potential to deliver this, more so than any other approach, but only if it is managed in a first-class way. Thus I can add my voice to the calls of other industry organisations to retain ProCure 21 as part of "an Estates function within the Department of Health".

As the foremost independent reform body promoting the concept of built environment solutions through collaborative working, Be can help you realise this. We have already contributed to the planning of your joint DH/DTI workshop in October on future innovation in healthcare, and will be taking forward our own programme of work in this area. As you say in your letter, "there is still a lot to do in developing the new working structures...", and we would be delighted to contribute quietly to your thinking by working alongside you. I hope that you will agree that this would be valuable and I would welcome a meeting with my chairman and I to share our views.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Don Ward
Chief Executive