

NHS
North Lancashire

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Mr Paul Wilkins

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25 November 2010

Dear Mr Wilkins

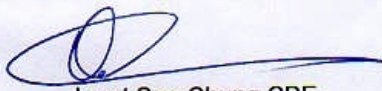
Thank you for your letter of 13 November 2010 in which you invite us to consider the impact of the term 'doctor'

To us in the NHS, the term 'doctor' is used to indicate a health professional who has successfully completed a recognised medical school training, is registered with the General Medical Council and is pursuing, or has completed, recognised specialty post graduate training. In other words, we are referring to people who can demonstrate particular qualification in traditional western medicine. It is that paradigm, based on evidence-based practice, that drives the delivery of NHS clinical services in our country.

Your letter and attached document make reference to important ways that human relationships and social space (social capital) impact on health and well-being. In this context we expect and encourage our doctors to work in partnership within society as part of the system and the solution but by no means the only solution.

Your letter has given us cause to reflect on this important issue and I thank you for it.

Yours sincerely



Janet Soo-Chung CBE
Chief Executive

William Bingley - Chairman Janet Soo-Chung CBE - Chief Executive

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