

The Government could save money by scrapping unnecessary new dental quango

Care Quality Commission replicates work already being done.

November 16th 2010

SIR – The Coalition Government is seeking to make significant cuts without damaging dental services. One of the first places it should look is at the wasteful plans it has for the Care Quality Commission (report, November 13).

The commission was established by the previous government to monitor large NHS bodies such as foundation trusts and to improve the quality of service and patient safety.

That remit is being extended and, between now and April next year, the commission is carrying out the costly and time-consuming task of registering all dental professionals working in England and Wales.

From April 2011, it will act as a regulator for dental professionals in order to improve quality and patient safety.

That would be a laudable use of resources if both tasks were not already ably conducted by the General Dental Council.

If the Government is genuinely looking to make savings with minimal impact on frontline services, then this commission is, we believe, ripe for reconsideration.

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