Oral Question

Sarah Wollaston  (Totnes Conservative)

My Rt Hon. Friend recognises how toxic many targets were in the NHS, but they were not all bad. There were some that ensured that standards were maintained, for example the two-week wait for cancer referrals. How will he ensure that standards are maintained when targets are abolished?

Andrew Lansley (Secretary of State, Health)

I am grateful to my hon. Friend, who is absolutely right. That is why, as I said in my statement, not only will we be clear about what we are trying to achieve, for example, where cancer is concerned, one and five year survival rates, at least as good as the European average and hopefully as good as any in Europe, but we will require the NHS to look towards clinically led, evidence based quality standards that enable those working in the NHS to be clear about what constitutes quality. That will enable us to deliver those outcomes.

Hansard

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