Written Question and Statement

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on reform of the Quality and Outcomes Framework in the last 12 months.

Daniel Poulter (Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, Conservative)

The Department has received four letters from Members of Parliament with suggestions from their constituents for reforms to the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), including two letters calling for new indicators for vitamin D and obesity. We received one letter from the National Obesity Forum calling for new indicators on obesity.

We have also received seven letters from Members of Parliament enclosing letters from general practitioners (GPs) and a letter from the General Practitioners Committee, expressing concern at the Government's proposed changes to QOF as part of the GP contract for 2013-14.

In addition, 'The management of diabetes services in the NHS', a report by the National Audit Office, referred to problems with the QOF, including that it did not incentivise GP practices to exceed upper thresholds of achievement. The report was the subject of a Public Accounts Committee hearing in June 2012.

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