

For immediate release

Press Statement

27 January 2012

**Health and Social Care Bill –
The Royal College of Radiologists' position**

Given our widespread concerns over many serious and as yet unresolved issues, The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) cannot support, and must continue to oppose, the passage of the Bill in its current form.

The College has grave concerns over several areas of the Bill:

- There should be an overriding duty on the Secretary of State to ensure that a high quality and integrated health service is delivered in the best interest of patients.
- There is a potential for widespread and potentially embedded health inequalities across the NHS.
- Recognising that competition has for some time played a role in the NHS, we remain alarmed that the dangers of unfettered competition as outlined in the Bill will adversely affect integrated care in both clinical oncology and clinical radiology.
- The NHS will lose its State Provider status and in doing so open services to EU competition law, which would have serious implications on the provision of patient care.

Whilst not specifically part of the Bill, the College also remains deeply concerned about the consequences for education and training as a result of the Bill's passage.

Dr Jane Barrett, President of the RCR, said, "We recognise that widespread changes to the NHS are already underway, such as the dismantling of the Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts. A coherent and authoritative way forward will be necessary to avoid severe harm and detriment to patients and to the NHS as a whole. The Royal College of Radiologists remains committed to working with all relevant parties, on behalf of patients and its members and Fellows, to address our very serious concerns about the Bill."

Notes to Editors

1. For further information, please contact Dan Garbutt, RCR Communications Officer, 020 7299 1138 (direct line) or dan_garbutt@rcr.ac.uk

2. The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) has approximately 8900 members and Fellows worldwide representing the disciplines of clinical oncology and clinical radiology. All members and Fellows of the College are registered medical or dental practitioners. The RCR exists to advance the science and practice of clinical radiology and clinical oncology through a range of activities, including setting and maintaining the standards for entry to, and practise in, the specialties of clinical radiology and clinical oncology, and arrangements for continuing professional development (CPD) in both specialties.