

The Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE



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I am writing in response to your contribution to the 2nd Reading Debate on the Public Bodies Bill, which took place on 9 November. I thank you for participating in the extensive debate on the Bill, and look forward to continuing these discussions in the coming weeks.

During the debate, you asked a specific question regarding the future of the General Social Care Council. The Government remains committed to social work reform and believe that the decision to transfer the role of the regulation of social workers to the Health Professions Council (HPC) and abolish the General Social Care Council (GSCC), whilst difficult, is ultimately in the best interests of furthering this commitment. The transfer will provide service users, taxpayers as well as social workers with independent, sustainable regulation and help protect money for social work reform that has previously been redirected to fund GSCC's operating costs.

The HPC is an experienced regulator with a proven track record of providing effective, safe and value for money regulation for 15 professions. In its Performance Review Report 2009/10 the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence described the HPC as a 'well-organised, efficient and cost-effective regulator' which maintained a good performance as it assumed responsibility for further professions. The Government is confident that the HPC is well placed to take on the regulation of social workers and that this option will be best in the long-term for the public, social workers and their employers

I am copying my response to my colleague Paul Burstow MP, who is the Minister responsible for this policy area. I am also placing a copy of this letter in the House of Lords Library.

LORD TAYLOR OF HOLBEACH