



PRESS RELEASE

Release date Immediate

Government forced into a **U turn** in the face of a campaign by 27,000 very sick, frightened and distressed Kidney Patients

In a statement issued yesterday

“NHS England said that it has listened to patients and clinicians and would continue national commissioning of specialist renal and morbid obesity services in 2015/16. It said it will keep under review whether to transfer responsibility to clinical commissioning groups, but any changes would not happen before April 2016.

Commenting on the decision to continue commissioning specialist renal and morbid obesity services at a national level, Richard Jeavons added: “We all want what is best for patients, and we have listened extremely carefully to their views and those of CCGs. For the time being we will continue to directly commission these services, which will give us head room to work through the proposals in more detail and address the issues that have been raised with us.”

This decision comes after a ferocious battle waged by the NKF (National Kidney Federation) over a six month period ever since it learned of the intention to transfer the Commissioning of Dialysis Services from NHS England to Clinical Commissioning Groups (GP level)

No proper consultation had taken place before the decision to move dialysis reached Ministerial level, in fact the NKF struggled to find anyone who had been informed. There was no evidence to support the move and the timescale was thought to be hurried and dangerous risking patients lives.

NKF issued a briefing paper to its patients in November, followed by its own NKF consultation paper in December. The NKF consultation did not find any person who favoured the changes proposed or thought that the change could be done safely in the timescale (April 2015) being proposed. The consultation did find that the proposal had terrified Kidney patients whose lives depend on Dialysis

provision. See the NKF submission containing these patient comments (more than 300) at >

<http://www.kidney.org.uk/assets/Uploads/documents/Dialysis-Commissioning-proposals/DOCUMENT-A.pdf>

All this was conveyed to Earl Howe in a special meeting hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Kidney Group in the House of Commons on 7th January 2015

The news released yesterday is of immense relief to all Dialysis patients

Kirit Modi – NKF Chairman said:-

“NKF welcomes the decision announced yesterday by the Minister not to transfer Dialysis commissioning in 2015. On behalf of the NKF I want to congratulate all patients, all KPA’s, all Kidney charities, professional associations and others for their support of our campaign

Tim Statham, NKF Chief Executive said:-

“The NKF campaign together with our Kidney Patient Associations (KPA's) , patients and other stakeholders has reversed the Governments harmful plans to alter the way Dialysis Services are commissioned in the UK. The NKF wants to both thank and congratulate all renal patients and KPA's who played an active part in this campaign. Well done - together we turned back the almost overwhelming tide !”

Michael (Bud) Abbott – NKF Officer said :-

“Once again NKF has stepped up to the mark in the face of adversity”

End

For further information please contact

Kirit Modi, NKF Chairman on 0208 9521131

Tim Statham, Chief Executive NKF on **01455 619128**

Or NKF on 01909 544 999

Or Madeliene Moon MP – Joint Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Kidney Group at the House of Commons

Read about the campaign in full at www.kidney.org.uk