

**From:** Ruth Passmore []  
**To:** Jane Garrard  
**Subject:** Health Scrutiny Committee meeting

Dear Jane,

I am contacting you regarding the paper on gluten free prescribing for the Health Scrutiny Committee meeting this Thursday.

Point 3.2 of the paper states that "The Government advised commissioners to undertake their own local consultation to inform local decision making about what to prescribe.". I was concerned to read this as this is not in line with advice that we have seen from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). I would be grateful if you would be able to clarify what advice is being referred to here?

I also wanted to draw your attention to the [latest consultation document](#) from the DHSC which outlined the draft regulations to implement the changes to gluten free prescribing in England. Section 4.3 states that "*Subject to any comments received in relation to the proposed changes in the Prescribing Regulations, it is expected that NHS England will issue guidance to CCGs urging them to comply with the national arrangements for GF prescribing.*" The statement made in the paper for Nottingham County Council is totally at odds with this and states that the DHSC is recommending that CCGs conduct their own local consultations.

NHS England also referred to gluten free prescribing in [their 2017 consultation document](#) on items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care. They stated: "*The Department of Health has recently consulted on proposals to make changes to the availability of gluten free (GF) foods that are prescribed in primary care. NHS England and NHS Clinical Commissioners support this consultation and as such, it would not be appropriate for NHS England or NHS Clinical Commissioners to further consult on the availability of GF foods on prescription in this document. It is anticipated that CCGs will take the outcome of that consultation into account as and when it becomes available.*"

Finally, could I request that Coeliac UK's response to the Nottingham CCGs consultation (attached) be made available to members of the Health Scrutiny Committee? The summary of our letter outlines issues relating to two points (access and cost of gluten free foods) but fails to summarise several other points which we raised in the attached letter, including our concern at the CCG holding a local consultation when a national review has been carried out.

If we can help with any further information relating to gluten free prescribing or if you would like to catch up over the phone please do let me know.

Kind regards,

Ruth

**Ruth Passmore**  
**Health Policy Officer**

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