



REACTIVE PRESS STATEMENT

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RCR Reactive Statement to Healthcare Commission report *An Improving Picture? Imaging Services in Acute and Specialist Trusts*

This Healthcare Commission report is a significant piece of work, and the Royal College of Radiologists is pleased that it acknowledges the importance of formal reporting, and skilled interpretation of reports, by a suitably trained radiologist

Dr Gill Markham, Dean of the College's Faculty of Radiology, said, "It is notable that although reference is made to the lack of prompt availability of reports, some **75%, of clinicians** surveyed, agreed that they "**can always get the support and advice we need from the Radiology Department**". This suggests that the lack of availability of reports may be at least in part due to processes and difficulties in issuing reports rather than the radiologists not performing well. It also underlines the vital consultative aspects of a clinical radiologists work in an Acute Trust which is difficult to quantify and therefore recognise and remunerate.

"The report is also right to acknowledge the major uncertainties under which diagnostic services in acute trusts are currently operating, with regard to the introduction of Payment by Results initiatives, practice-based commissioning, and growth in the independent sector which is hampering forward planning".

Notes to editors

1. For further information, contact the College's Communications Officer on 020 7299 1138, or email dan.garbutt@rcr.ac.uk
2. The Royal College of Radiologists has approximately 7,200 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.
3. The role of the College is to advance the science and practice of radiology and oncology, further public education and promote study and research through setting professional standards of practice.