



The Royal College of Radiologists

PRESS RELEASE

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Independent sector MRI services – statement by the Royal College of Radiologists

The Royal College of Radiologists is committed to ensuring that all patients benefit from high quality diagnostic services and short waiting times, to enable prompt treatment and improve standards of patient care.

The College has expressed concern about the contract that provides mobile MRI services for NHS patients in the independent sector. The RCR /DH MRI Clinical Guardian, Professor Adrian Dixon, and the President Professor Janet Husband, are working in constructive partnership with the Department of Health to address the problems which have been encountered.

As part of this ongoing work, a report prepared by the Royal College of Radiologists in conjunction with the Department of Health has been published, following a small audit by a team of Fellows of the College. The report can be viewed on the College website [here](#). This report suggests that the service provided by the independent sector as provided in January 2005 had improved since its instigation in 2004. Nevertheless, some variations between work undertaken in the NHS and private sector remain, and further work and resources are needed to provide an integrated, uniform high quality service for all patients, whether they are imaged in the NHS or within the independent sector.

The RCR will continue to work with the Department of Health to build on recent improvements to the delivery of the service and to facilitate new initiatives aimed at further reduction of waiting times; these will include making even better use of established NHS MRI facilities.

Notes to editors

1. The Royal College of Radiologists has approximately 6,600 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.
2. 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.

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