



## Ministry of Justice decision on proposed search results 'offer'

### Rationale:

1. The MoJ was required to make a final decision on the number of Medical Reporting Organisations (MROs) that should be presented from a search on MedCo Registration Solutions. The decision needed to include the total number of MROs presented as well as the mix of high volume national MROs and regional MROs.
2. To help inform this decision MoJ analysts undertook some illustrative scenario analysis of the possible impacts that different mixes of MROs might have on existing MRO market share. The assumptions underpinning this analysis were based on a survey carried out in late 2014. These assumptions have been shared and discussed with the MoJ's core stakeholder group and members of the MedCo board and were modified in the light of the feedback received.
3. The overall aim in deciding the number and mix of MROs is to balance the potential impacts on MROs with seeking to achieve the Government's overall policy objective of tackling fraudulent whiplash claims through the MedCo model.

### Decisions:

4. Ministers have considered the above factors and have agreed that the offer should include:
  - ◆ **one high volume national MRO and six other MROs; or**
  - ◆ **seven medical experts**
5. If we were to include fewer than six smaller MROs there is a risk of excessively favouring the high volume, national MROs. To include more than six smaller MROs would likely compromise the independence of medical reporting intended under the MedCo system. It was also felt appropriate that the number of options presented on completion of a directly instructed expert search be the same as that for MROs.
6. Ministers take the view that this option provides a pragmatic and proportionate response to balancing the need to minimise any undue impact on the market and ensuring the choice of MRO is not so wide as to negate the intended effects of implementing MedCo. This decision will be reviewed once we have six months worth of data to examine.