

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HIV AND AIDS IN THE UK***Call for Evidence***

The House of Lords has established a Select Committee on HIV and AIDS in the United Kingdom. The orders of reference of the inquiry are: “that a Select Committee be appointed to consider HIV and AIDS in the United Kingdom”.

The Committee in particular will explore the following key issues in detail and would welcome your views on **any or all** of the following questions. **Please note that questions are not listed here in any particular order of importance.**

Written evidence should arrive no later than Friday 18th February 2011.

Monitoring

- a. How robust is the current system for monitoring the number of people with HIV in the United Kingdom?
- b. Will the proposed public health reforms impact on this system?
- c. Could anything be done to improve monitoring?
- d. What groups in particular are at risk from HIV?

Prevention

- a. Is Government policy sufficiently focused on HIV prevention?
- b. Have the right groups been targeted in recent prevention campaigns?
- c. To what extent have prevention initiatives targeted at injecting drug users been successful?
- d. How could prevention initiatives be better delivered and evaluated?

Testing

- a. Are current testing policies adequate across the country?
- b. What can be done to increase take-up rates?

Treatment

- a. How can the NHS best commission and deliver HIV treatment?
- b. What impact might the proposed new commissioning reforms have on HIV treatment?
- c. In what setting can treatment most effectively be delivered?

Cost

- a. Have cost considerations been satisfactorily balanced with public health imperatives in HIV:
 - (i) prevention policy; and
 - (ii) treatment policy?
- b. Is research funding correctly prioritised?

Stigma

- a. What impact does stigmatisation of those with HIV have on those infected, and on addressing HIV as a public health problem?
- b. Where are problems of stigmatisation most acute?
- c. What measures are currently taken to tackle HIV stigmatisation? What more should be done?

Evidence should be submitted to Mark Davies, Select Committee on HIV and AIDS in the United Kingdom, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW, fax 020 7219 4931. The deadline for written evidence is Friday 18 February 2011.

Short submissions are preferred. A submission longer than six pages should include a one-page summary.

Evidence must be clearly printed or typed on single sides of A4 paper, unstapled.

Paragraphs should be numbered. If drawings or charts are included, these must be black-and-white and of camera-ready quality. Evidence should be signed and dated, with a note of the author's name and status, and of whether the evidence is submitted on an individual or corporate basis. Only one copy is required. All submissions will be acknowledged promptly. The evidence should also be made available in electronic form as a Word document. This should be sent by e-mail to holhivandaids@parliament.uk.

Evidence becomes the property of the committee, and may be published by the Committee at any stage. Once you have received acknowledgement that the evidence has been received, you may publicise or publish your evidence yourself, but in doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee. Parliamentary privilege will not apply to your own publication.

Personal contact details supplied to the committee will be removed from evidence before publication. However, personal contact details will be retained by the Committee Office and used for specific purposes relating to the committee's work, for instance to seek additional information or to send copies of the committee's report.

Persons who submit written evidence, and others, may be invited to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster, broadcast in audio and often video format on the internet, and transcripts are published. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Written evidence by persons who give oral evidence will normally be printed with the Committee's report. Other written evidence will normally not be printed, but published online and deposited in the Parliamentary Archives.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the Clerk or the Chairman of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

You may follow the progress of the inquiry from the Weekly Bulletin of House of Lords select committees. This is free, and may be ordered from Committee Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW, telephone 020 7219 6678. Alternatively, consult the UK Parliament website, at <http://www.parliament.uk/hivselect>.