

Free Lamborghini!

Recent government polls have revealed that 98% of the British population would answer "yes" to being given a free Lamborghini on the NHS. The health minister is quoted to have said "*For too long the decisions about the priorities in health care have been made by doctors and nurses. It is time for the People to decide what services they would like and as the Elected Representatives of the People we will make sure they get what they want.*"

However, the first lucky patients to take advantage of this generous offer of a free Lamborghini were shocked to find that **their houses had been sold to pay for the cars and they now had to live in tents**. Their complaints were dismissed by Department of Health officials who quoted clause 356.iii on page 1057 of the document each patient had signed that clearly stated that "*some economies on less efficient use of resources may be required*"

Observers have noted similarities between these poll results and recent polls where stakeholders voted "yes" to 24 hour access to their own GP, Health Trainer and Hospital Consultants in clinics within easy walking distance of their home, place of work and school. They also voted "yes" to the right to be seen where, when and by whom they liked and to have whatever treatment they wanted irrespective of the advice of clinicians or the needs of other patients.

Concerns have been raised about how these services will be afforded and we have today learned in a leaked memo that plans have been made to **sell 200 District General Hospitals to a consortium of American Health Maintenance Organisations (HMOs)**. The monies raised from this sale will be used to fund the flagship NHS services introduced by the Government such as NHS Direct and Choose and Book. Funding for actual patient treatment will be reduced but it is envisaged that most patients in work will choose to take out bolt-on insurance cover with the American HMO's to cover hospital treatment.

Patients who are unable to afford insurance cover may find that they have to accept a **reduced availability of hospital services when they are seriously ill** but they will still be entitled to Health Trainers and Late Night GP Appointments which were considered more important in the polls.

