

The quality battlegrounds revealed: 17 inspections set to decide the General Election

Inspections of just 17 NHS hospital services might play a role in deciding the outcome of the General Election, according to new analysis by Incisive Health – published to mark the one year anniversary of the Government’s response to the Francis Inquiry.

The analysis shows that, of the 76 NHS hospital services that have been inspected or are scheduled to be inspected before the General Election by the new, beefed-up Care Quality Commission:

- Nine are in seats on the Conservative target list
- Eight are in seats on the Labour target list

With the next General Election on a knife edge, the inspection results could ignite local campaigns and ultimately decide whether it is David Cameron or Ed Miliband who makes it into Number 10.

The Government has been eager to champion its new, tougher inspection process at the national level – but the fallout at the local level has caused a backlash in some cases, even amongst its own backbenchers. The Conservative MP for North Thanet Roger Gale was [“furious”](#) when the CQC criticised his local hospital in August.

Ten NHS hospital trusts have already been inspected in target marginal constituencies and have been found to be inadequate or requiring improvement. Of these ten, five are on the Labour target seats list and five are on the list of Tory targets.

Government MPs in danger of losing their seats include: Bob Blackman (Harrow East), Ben Gummer (Ipswich) and Paul Maynard (Blackpool North and Cleveleys).

The findings come as recent polling by ComRes for Incisive Health has shown that a third of voters still do not know which party to trust on the NHS or trust none of them.

Commenting on the findings, Ben Nunn of Incisive Health said:

“MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates will be watching the results of their local CQC inspections like a hawk. Ten hospitals trusts in the most marginal constituencies have already been found to be inadequate or needing improvements – and we know more trusts will be inspected in the months leading up to the election.”

"How hospitals respond to these inspections and whether they can deliver the necessary improvements in time could be decisive in how the health debate plays out in marginal seats at next year's election."

Notes to editors

1. Incisive Health is an award winning health policy and communications consultancy (www.incisivehealth.com)
2. In July 2013, the CQC announced the details of its new inspection regime for health and care services. Under the proposals, NHS services would be rated as inadequate, requires improvement, good or outstanding. The new approach commenced in September 2013 and all hospitals will have been inspected by the CQC by the end of 2015. More details about the new inspection regime can be found [here](#).
3. The CQC has announced the next wave of inspections between [October and December 2014](#) and [January and March 2015](#). In total, 30 hospital providers will be inspected, with the following in either Labour or Conservative target seats:

Trust name	Period of inspection	Constituency	Majority	Current MP	Party
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	January to March 2015	Darlington	3,338	Jenny Chapman	Labour
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	October to December 2014	Derby North	613	Chris Williamson	Labour
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	January to March 2015	Cheltenham	4,920	Martin Horwood	Liberal Democrat
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	January to March 2015	Ipswich	2,079	Ben Gummer	Conservative
University Hospital Southampton	October to December 2014	Southampton, Test	2,413	Alan Whitehead	Labour

NHS Foundation Trust					
Warrington and Halton NHS Foundation Trust	January to March 2015	Warrington South	1,553	David Mowat	Conservative
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	October to December 2014	Brentford and Isleworth	1,958	Mary Macleod	Conservative

4. The following NHS trusts have been rated poor or requiring improvement by the CQC under its new inspection regime and are located in target marginal constituencies for the Labour and Conservative parties:

Trust name	CQC rating	Constituency	Majority	Current MP	Party
Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Requires improvement	Blackpool North and Cleveleys	2,150	Paul Maynard	Conservative
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	Requires improvement	Brighton Kemptown	1,328	Simon Kirby	Conservative
North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust	Requires improvement	Copeland	3,833	Jamie Reed	Labour
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust	Requires improvement	Great Grimsby	714	Austin Mitchell	Labour
Peterborough	Requires	Peterborough	4,861	Stewart	Conservative

and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	improvement			Jackson	
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	Requires improvement	Harrow East	3,403	Bob Blackman	Conservative
Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Inadequate	Stalybridge and Hyde	2,744	Jonathan Reynolds	Labour
The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	Requires improvement	Morley and Outwood	1,101	Ed Balls	Labour
The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Requires improvement	Birmingham Northfield	2,782	Richard Burden	Labour
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	Requires improvement	Lincoln	1,058	Karl McCartney	Labour

5. A recent poll conducted by ComRes for Incisive Health found that 24% of people do not trust any party to manage the NHS and 9% are undecided (don't know). More details about the poll can be read [here](#)
6. For more information please contact:

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