



Anglo-German Foundation and King's Fund Seminar

Current themes in UK health care: how are they approached in Germany?

Rationale

All countries in the developed world are facing similar challenges in health care, in particular, how to provide good quality services at reasonable cost. Given the different social economic political and cultural history, each country has approached the challenge in different ways. This seminar seeks to take some current live themes in UK health care, and discuss how they are being approached in Germany.

At centre-stage of UK Government policy is the reform of public services, and in particular the NHS. The seminar will focus primarily on three themes which are apparent in recent policies, and the extent to which they may be illuminated by reference to German experience:

- ***national efforts to improve quality*** such as setting standards, developing and using performance indicators, inspecting and regulating providers

- ***decentralising power to local communities***, for example allowing the best providers more freedoms from central control, and encouraging greater public involvement in local planning decisions

- ***encouraging market forces to improve performance*** for example in the NHS: encouraging diversity in provision of care, greater choice for patients, and fixed-price competition between providers

The Anglo-German Foundation has set aside significant funds for future comparative research, binational seminars, workshops, etc on the British and German health care systems. It hopes through this first seminar to identify specific areas in which further research and exchanges of experience would yield results of benefit to policy-makers and managers in both countries.

The seminar is aimed at an invited group of policy-makers, academics, NHS and private sector managers, senior clinicians and think tanks.



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Monday 10 March 2003, 0930 – 1245
King's Fund, 11-13 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0AN

Programme

- 0930 Coffee
- 1000 **Introduction:** Seminar Chair, Keith Dobson, Director, Anglo-German Foundation.
- 1010 **The German Political Context:** Richard Freeman, University of Edinburgh
- 1030 **The German Health System in a Nutshell:** Reinhard Busse, Professor of Health Care Management, Technical University, Berlin
- 1050 **Introduction to Discussion Themes:** Jennifer Dixon, Director, Health Care Policy, King's Fund
- 1100 **Small Group Discussion**
- 1115 **Panel and Plenary Discussion**
- Panel:**
- Reinhard Busse
 - Richard Freeman
 - Martin McKee, European Centre on Health of Societies in Transition, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
 - Anna Dixon, London School of Economics
- 1240 **Closing Remarks:** Keith Dobson, Jennifer Dixon
- 1245 **Buffet Lunch**