

## PRESS INFORMATION

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### DANGERS IN DILNOT FOR INDEPENDENT SECTOR CARE HOME OPERATORS

The UK's leading healthcare intelligence provider Laing & Buisson has given a cautious welcome to the proposals as laid out in today's adult social care funding commission published by Andrew Dilnot.

Laing & Buisson chief executive William Laing said:

'The Dilnot report, *Fairer Care Funding*, presents an extremely well crafted set of proposals, which have every promise of finally resolving more than a decade of debate on the funding of long term care in England.

But there are dangers in Dilnot for independent sector providers of care homes.

Dilnot's key proposals\* will mean that large numbers of care home residents who are presently private payers will be drawn within the ambit of local authority payment.

Depending on how the proposals were implemented, a significant proportion of the premium fee rates which are presently needed to cross subsidise inadequate local authority fee rates may gravitate towards the latter.

According to Laing & Buisson market reports, approximately 40% of independent sector care home residents are currently private payers. Laing & Buisson's initial estimate is that the proportion may fall to about 30-35% if the Dilnot proposals are implemented.

These concerns should not stand in the way of implementation of the Dilnot proposals, but it will be necessary carefully to consider the mechanisms for implementation in order to avoid further destabilising the independent sector at a time when it is under severe financial pressure.'

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\* Dilnot's key proposals are that the asset threshold should increase from £23,500 to £100,000 in England, and that there should be a cap of £35,000 on lifetime care costs for each individual.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

Founded by William Laing in 1986, Laing & Buisson is the UK's leading provider of information and market intelligence on the independent health, community care and childcare sectors.

Laing & Buisson offers a uniquely focused range of expert services to providers, purchasers and investors in the health and community care markets. Information about the range of products and services provided is summarised below.

#### [Annual Directories & Market Reports](#)

Laing & Buisson publishes a series of special market reports and directories on the health and community care sectors. Annual publications include Laing's Healthcare Market Review, Long Term Care: Directory of Major Providers, and the Care of Elderly People Market Survey. The research and conclusions within the reports are frequently cited in parliamentary questions and answers, official documents and company prospectuses, and are regularly drawn upon by the national media.

#### [Consultancy & Market Intelligence](#)

Market intelligence and consultancy work, focusing on non-clinical aspects of health and social care markets, is tailor-made for companies with an active interest in the sector. Examples of recent work include a report on the future of the independent healthcare sector for the Healthcare Commission, the seminal work conducted by Laing & Buisson on 'A Fair Price for Care' for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and 'Improving Lives - Improving Life', a report on the key strategic issues facing the long term care sector. Laing & Buisson also frequently assists investors in market due diligence work in the health and care sectors. Laing & Buisson can also offer consultancy on the broader European market through its Healthcare Europa joint venture.

#### [Healthcare Data in an Electronic Format](#)

*CareSearch* is Laing & Buisson's flagship data product, a 'one stop shop' with extremely flexible search facilities for those needing detailed, reliable and up-to-date information on care homes, independent hospitals, health and care commissioners and regulators in each neighbourhood in the UK, together with details of group operators, their holdings and financial information from statutory accounts. Alternatively, data can be selected specifically and supplied on disks or labels for mailing purposes.

#### [Newsletters](#)

Laing & Buisson publishes two authoritative monthly newsletters - *Community Care Market News*, which covers the long-term care sector, and *Healthcare Market News*, which covers the acute healthcare sector.

#### [Conferences & Awards](#)

In addition to one-off conferences on subjects selected for their special interest or topicality, Laing & Buisson's annual programme features a series of 'annual' conferences - definitive events covering key developments and leading edge practice in specific areas including Homecare, Telecare and Assistive Technology, Children's Nurseries and Childcare, Extra Care, Long Term Care for Older People, Acute Healthcare, Private Healthcare Insurance and Investing in Healthcare. Furthermore, an annual healthcare convention is held which features sector wide debate on a wide range of related topics (Laing & Buisson's Healthcare Convention) and two awards schemes are also operated which recognise best practice in both the specialist care sector (Independent Specialist Care Awards) and long term care and acute provision (Independent Healthcare Awards).