



# Reporting the new NHS

John Lister April 2013

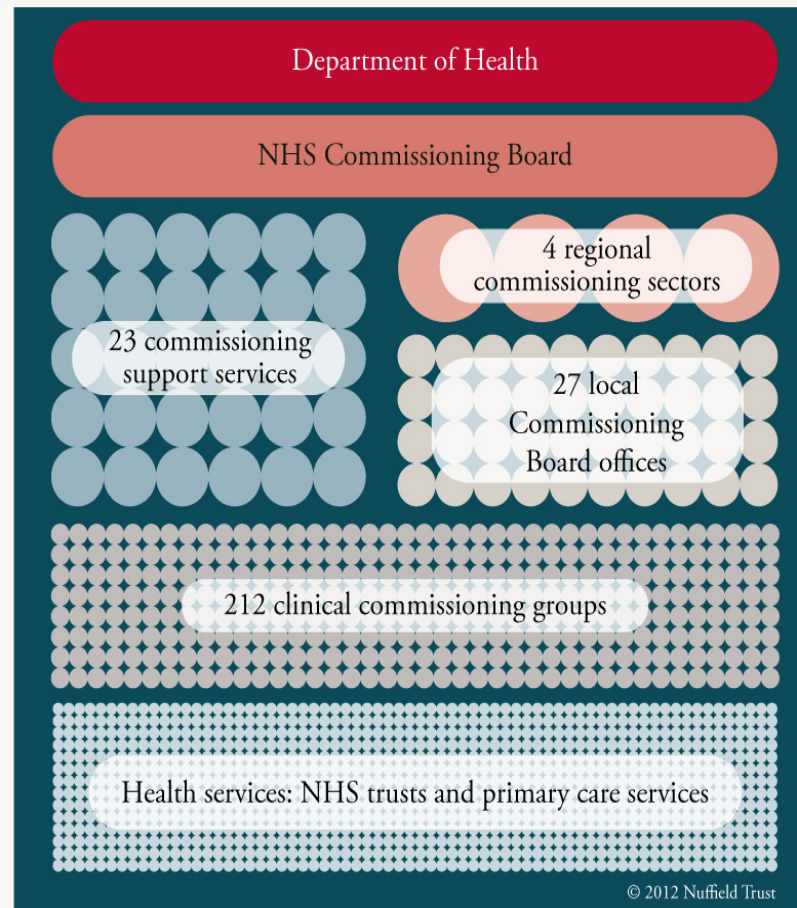
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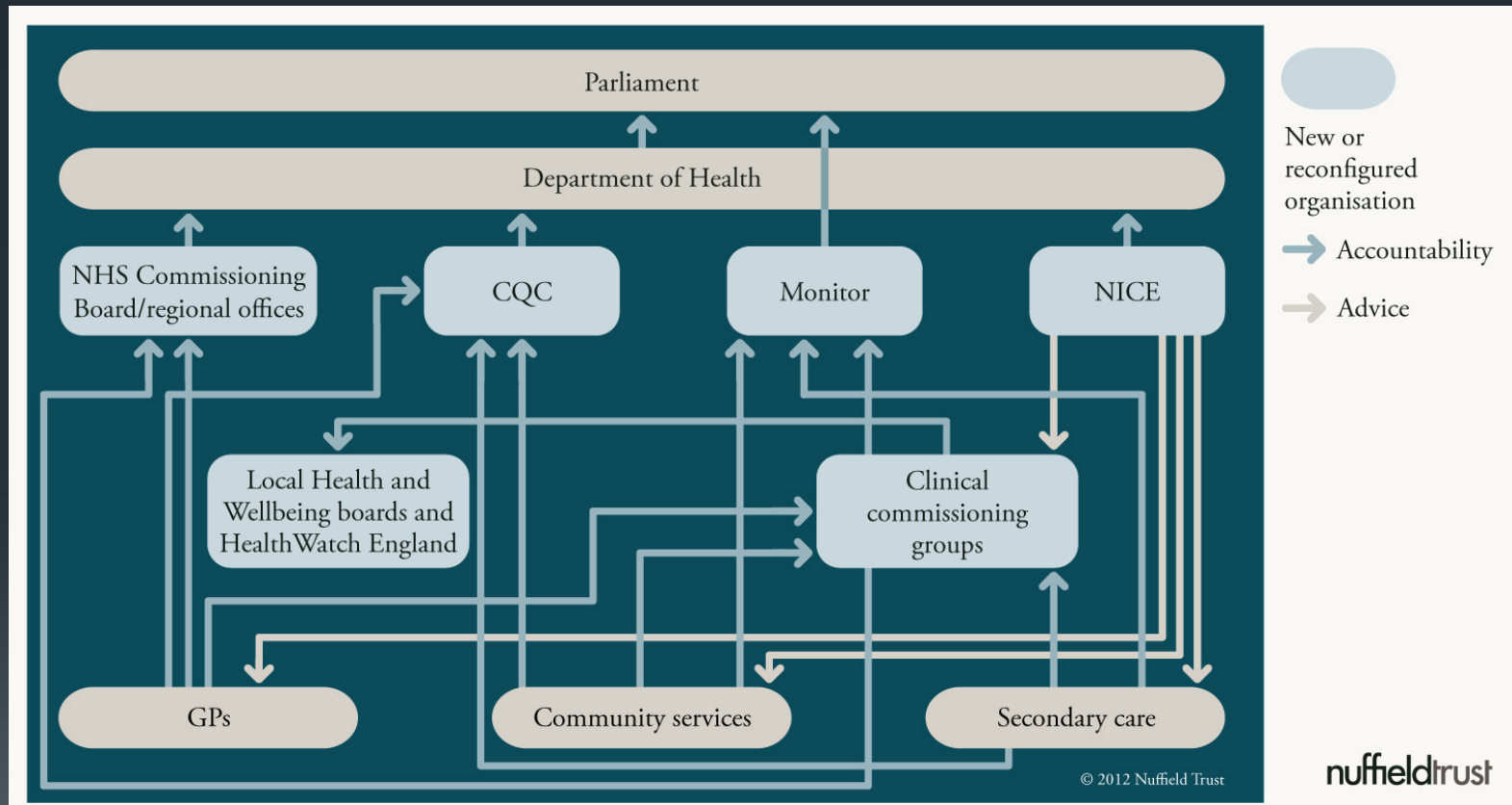
# Health & Social Care Act

- **Fundamental** and far-reaching change
- **Massive** Bill (400 pages), **Complex**
- **Amendment** to existing NHS legislation: Bill itself has to be seen alongside 2006 Act etc.
- **Confusing language** (e.g. amendment from “Any Willing Provider” to “Any Qualified Provider” – but no definition of “qualified”).
- New structure: **NHS England** leading 200+ **Clinical Commissioning Groups** ostensibly “led by GPs” and steered by Commissioning Support Services
- NHS still facing **£20bn** “efficiency” squeeze by 2015

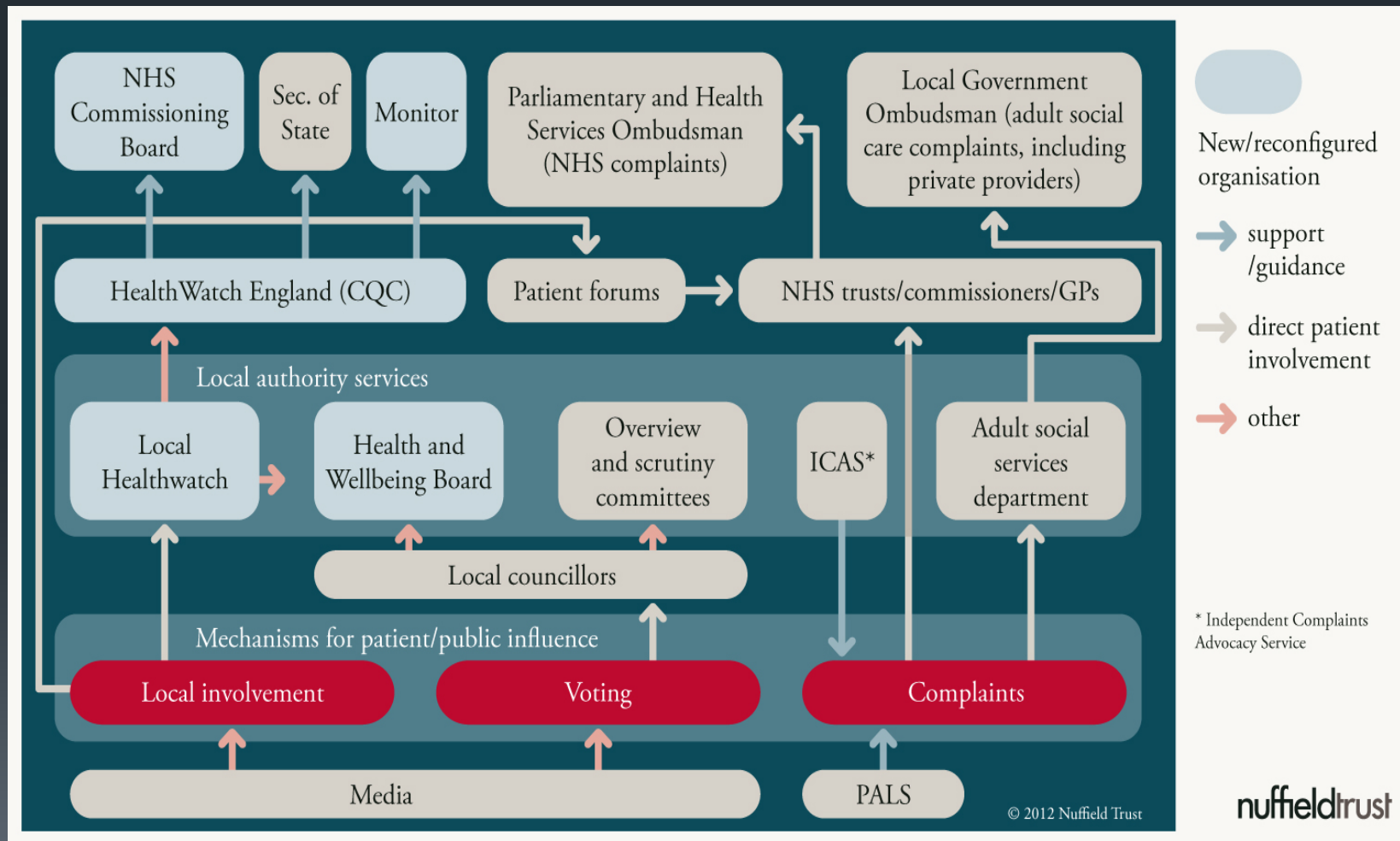
# The new structure



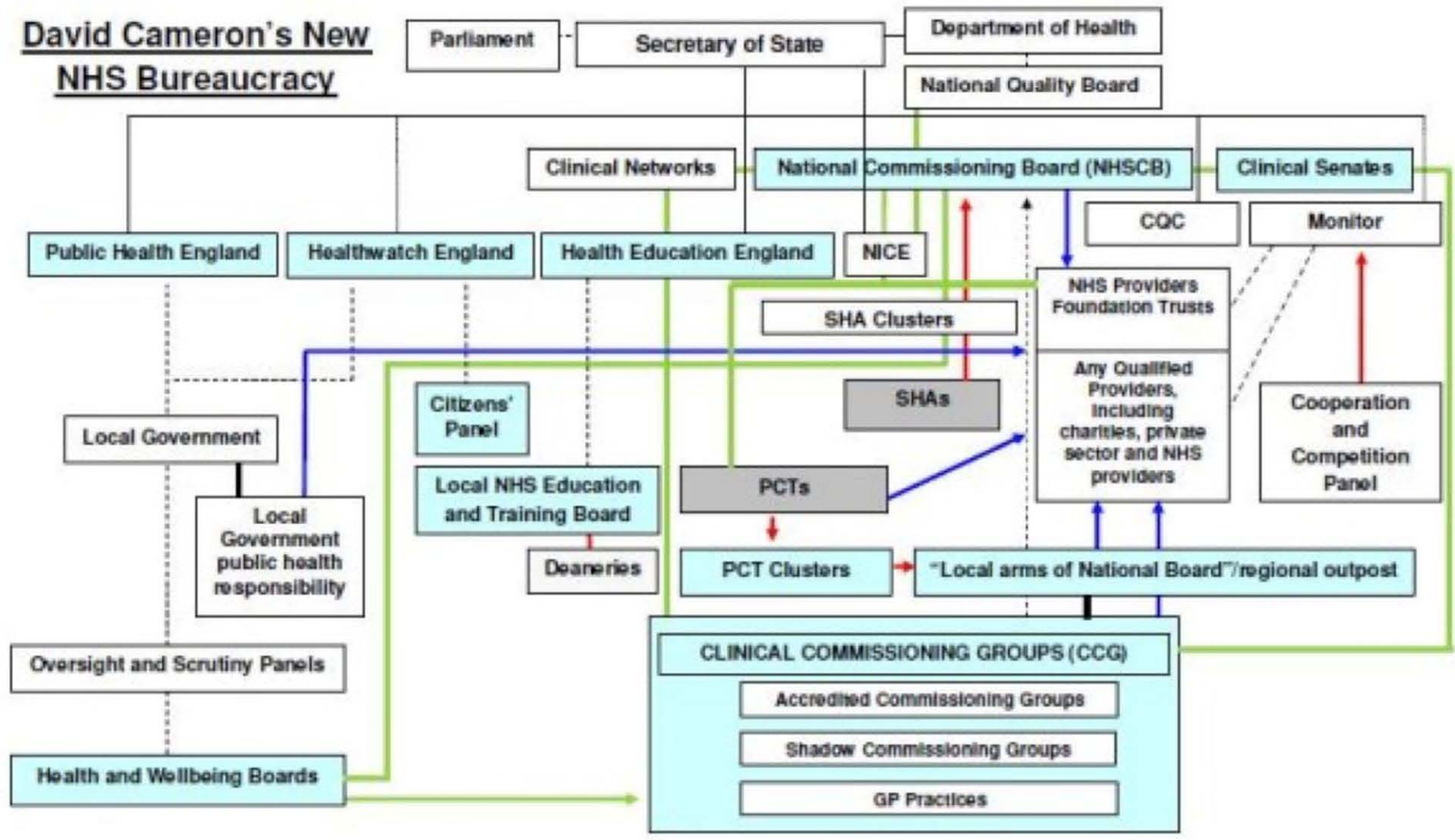
# Regulation and monitoring



# Patient & media involvement



# David Cameron's New NHS Bureaucracy



KEY					
Line of accountability	Consult/issue guidance etc	Merge	New Body	Existing organisation (retained until April 2013)	Commission services from
-----	→	—	□	□	→
	→				→

# Reporting the new structures

- Key issues for journalists:
  - **Access** points for information
  - **Timely information** for journalists under pressure in thinned-out newsrooms
  - **Range of information** (Board papers, etc) not just occasional press releases on selected issues
  - **Transparency** – not shrouding details with “business in confidence”
  - Journos also need informed comment and analysis – needs **public access** to information

## Reporting the different levels

- **NATIONAL LEVEL (NHS England)**. Apparent openness of Board meetings, but no equivalent transparency of **Local Area Teams**
- What is decision making structure of **LATs**?
- Will they publish agendas and papers?
- **Are LATs subject to Fol?** If so how can we get info to frame precise enough questions?
- **Public Health England**. To meet in public and publish papers?



## Local level

- **CCGs:** “normally” meet in public & publish ‘agendas’ – but board papers?
- **Commissioning Support Services** not public bodies: are they FoI-able? What evidence base are they required to use?
- Who vets **quality** of CSSs & their advice?
- **Foundation Trusts:** boards must “meet in public”, but no requirement to publish papers or agendas beyond governors. Many don’t.

# What about accountability of non-NHS providers (AQP)?



Supply2Health

AQP Resource Centre: Help for commissioners, information for the public, assurance for patients

[Search Supply2Health](#) > [Any Qualified Provider Resource Centre](#) > [Map of Services](#) > [QualifiedProviders](#) > [AQP/CPI/12/0012](#)

Close	
<b>Name of Provider</b>	Minor Ops Ltd
<b>Status</b>	Service operational
<b>PCT Name</b>	County Durham (5ND)
<b>Service</b>	Adult Podiatry
<b>Category</b>	Podiatry
<b>SHA Region</b>	North
<b>Organisation Category</b>	Independent Sector
<b>Small or Medium Enterprise (SME)?</b>	Yes
Created at 26/10/2012 04:06 PM by System1 (DH) Last modified at 23/01/2013 02:11 PM by mark.lambert	
Close	

**Qualified Clinics**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Name of Provider: Minor Ops Ltd</b>	
<b>Simon Berry Optometrist</b> 41 a Marshall Terrace, , Durham, DH1 2HX	<b>Cestria Health Centre</b> Whitehill Way, Chester le Street, County Durham, DH2 3DJ
Available for these PCTs: 5ND See clinic location on: <a href="#">Google maps</a>	Available for these PCTs: 5ND See clinic location on: <a href="#">Google maps</a>

## Other bodies

- Clinical Networks & Senates: **what for?**
- **HWBs** – very variable level of openness & public engagement: unclear role & powers
- **Health Scrutiny Cttees** – postcode lottery
- **Health Watch**: what's it really **FOR**? Where is any CHC-style strong patient voice?
- **Health Education England** and local **LETBs**: no clear commitment to local accountability or media access

# Regulation and Competition

- CQC
- Monitor
- NICE
- Professional bodies (NMC, GMC etc)
- Cooperation & Competition Panel (Monitor)
- Office of Fair Trading increasingly involved
- Competition Commission
- EU Competition Law – “right to provide”
- **It's a big job: can the newsrooms do it?**

## See also

- [www.europeanhealthjournalism.com](http://www.europeanhealthjournalism.com) (free materials and weblinks for training and professional development: login to register, but free access)
- <http://www.project-heart.eu/> (EU-funded project for training of health reporters 2010-12: more material downloadable after FREE login)
- And look out for '**First Do No Harm: the Principles and Practice of Health Journalism**', a new book to be completed by the autumn of 2013, & published by Libri early 2014.