

Teach yourself Lansley

Speak fluent gobbledygook in a week. Your guide to those key words and phrases used by the Health Secretary that may look and sound like normal English – but aren't.

Compiled and translated by John Lister.

Dictionary

A

Accountable: (adjective) reporting to an unrepresentative quango

Amendments: (noun) protracted and ineffectual cosmetic tinkering, leaving core of Bill intact

Any Qualified Provider: (noun) any willing provider who fills in the right forms and is not bankrupt

B

Better (...): (adjective) Private sector involved

Bureaucracy: (noun) (1) level of accountability that is to be abolished (2) body about to be abolished which upholds statutory rights and standards

C

Care Quality Commission: (noun) a fig-leaf to conceal falling standards or use as a scapegoat when problems go public

Choice: (abstract noun) lever to switch publicly funded care to costlier private providers, possibly collapsing NHS provision

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG): (noun) device to make GPs carry the

can for unpopular decisions drawn up by private sector

Clinical Senate: (noun) toothless, pointless body invented to placate marginalised hospital consultants

Clinician: (noun) one of the handful of doctors and nurses who agree with my reforms

Commissioning: (noun) device to create a market where there once was a planned service

Commissioning Support

Organisation: (noun) private sector company in charge of public sector budget

Competition: (noun) (in public services) one-way process, ending in privatisation

Cooperation and Competition

Panel: (noun) panel single-mindedly promoting competition

Cost envelope: the white or manila scrap paper on which financial projections are worked out in wine bars by management consultants

Customer facing: (adjective) private sector

E

Empowered: (adjective) cynically used, scapegoat-to-be for later problems

Excellent: (adjective) (1) a level of service we are not satisfied with because private sector not involved
(2) description of any service offered by private sector

F

Fully engaged: (adjective) patronised and treated as idiots

Funding growth: (misleading phrase) less money in real terms

Future Forum: (noun) stooge body to help me drag NHS back to 1930s

H

Having a voice: (phrase) roped into token toothless committees

Health and Wellbeing Board: (noun) a carve up between NHS and council bosses

Health Watch: (noun) latest toothless pretence of accountability to local communities

I

In charge/ in control: (deceptive prepositional phrase) cynically used, scapegoat-to-be for later problems

Independent : (adjective)

(1) private sector

(2) body stuffed with my supporters

Innovative: (adjective) private sector

Integrated: (adjective) fragmented – perhaps linked by contracts

Intelligent commissioning: (oxymoronic phrase) commissioning supported by private companies

Involve: (verb) pretend to consult while ignoring

L

Listening exercise: (noun) a period ostentatiously ignoring opposing views

Liberating the NHS: (misleading phrase) liberating the private sector

Liberalisation: (noun) privatisation

Local: (adjective) any size, no matter how big, but not national

M

Modernisation: (noun) rolling the clocks back to the 1930s

Monitor: (noun) McKinsey and co-reshaping the NHS as a network of businesses

N

National Commissioning Board: (noun) Kremlin, policing body cracking whip over CCGs (qv)

National Health Service (NHS): (noun) a cash pot to purchase services from private providers

Not privatising: (verb) privatising provision

O

Our journey: (noun) my hijack of the NHS

Outcomes: (collective noun) greater profits for private health providers

P

Patient choice: (noun) system foisted on patients given giving them the right to choose the cheapest service

Patient power: (abstract noun) a

rhetorical device to marginalise clinical opposition

Pause: (noun) a period of accelerated implementation of the Bill

Personal budget: (noun) device to sack skilled care coordination staff and dump responsibility back onto patients to fend for themselves in a failing market

Private sector efficiency: (misleading phrase)

(1) the outcome of putting profits ahead of every other consideration
(2) picking only profitable services, leaving everything else to the public sector

Private Finance Initiative (PFI): (noun) issue that allows me to blame Labour for their implementation of the Tory policy while I carry on signing new PFI deals

Promoting choice: (misleading phrase) privatisation

Properly: (adverb) in a competitive market

Q

Qualified: (adjective) (**of private organisation**) not (yet) bankrupt

R

Referral management: (noun) replaces patient choice with bureaucrats' (or private sector) choice

Responsive: (adjective) private sector

Robust: (adjective) private sector

S

Seamless: (adjective) fragmented, chaotic, disappearing

Shared decision-making: (misleading phrase) the illusion that patients and GPs choose, when their decisions are subject to referral management centres

Social enterprise: (oxymoronic noun) interim nonprofit private provider paving the way for proper private takeover

Sustainable: (adjective) private sector

T

Thousands of GPs: (abstract noun) a tiny handful

Trade union: (1) (noun) any professional body opposed to the bill
(2) (adjective) organised in any way to challenge government policy

V

Vested interests: (noun) anyone opposed to Andrew Lansley's Bill (never private sector).

Viable: (adjective) private sector

Vibrant: (adjective) private sector

W

Working together: (phrase) in competition

Useful phrases in Lansley

With the media

5000 fewer managers, 4000 more doctors: (misleading phrase) I'm making this shit up

Baffled by opposition to (...): (bemused phrase) I have not been listening to any other views but mine for the last 18 months

Care provided by the NHS will remain free at the point of use: (misleading phrase)

(1) Just look how many treatments are now no longer available from the NHS

(2) you may well soon have to pay – or buy health insurance in advance so that your care will remain 'free at the point of use'.

Cutting management costs: (inaccurate phrase) privatising management

Doctors tell me they want these reforms: (misleading phrase) I once met a doctor who told me he supported part of the Bill

Duty to secure that services are provided: (complex noun) Secretary of State's attempt to escape a duty to provide services

Evidence shows: (baseless assertion) I'm making this up

Hand more control to patients: (misleading phrase) abandon any planning of local services

Health and social care integration: (misleading phrase) cutting budgets for both health and social care

I'm not lonely: (assertion) nobody agrees with me

I am just like Aneurin Bevan: (wild, historically illiterate assertion) I'm clutching at straws as I antagonise the whole medical profession

No decision about me without me: (misleading phrase) every decision imposed from above

No top-down reorganisation: (misleading phrase) biggest reorganisation since 1948

Ploughed back into patient care: (misleading phrase) ploughed into private sector

Liberate NHS from bureaucracy: (misleading phrase) tie it up in competition law

Take the politics out of this discussion: (misleading phrase) please stop discussing the consequences if this bill goes through

The bill enjoys the support of all the clinical professions: (misleading phrase) and there are fairies at the bottom of our garden

Those who are against the bill just don't understand it: (misleading phrase) (1) everyone is out of step but Lansley (2) almost nobody understands the Bill, especially MPs.

We/doctors/clinicians are already (...): (misleading phrase) We didn't need the bill to do this [*we need the Bill to do plenty of other things we are NOT telling you about*].
