

This response was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *Public Health: ethical issues* between May and September 2006. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

Expert Advisory Group on AIDS (EAGA)

EAGA is an advisory non-departmental public body which is non-statutory. It was established in 1985 to:

provide advice on such matters relating to HIV/AIDS as may be referred to it by the Chief Medical Officers of the Health Departments of the United Kingdom.

In our response, we have focused on the two key questions of most relevance to HIV infection and individuals living with diagnosed and undiagnosed infection. At the outset, we wish to stress that there is a paucity of scientific evidence on which to base a response. Our response therefore consists of a combination of consensus views – on topics that have been the subject of previous discussions at EAGA – and individual expert opinion of members who responded to a request to submit views.

In summary, EAGA makes the following recommendations:

1. Quarantine, isolation and detention measures would:
 - (a) constitute an ineffective and disproportionate approach to limiting, controlling and managing the onward transmission of HIV in the UK; and
 - (b) have a negative and undesirable impact on the care and treatment of those living with HIV and AIDS, and on efforts at ensuring their social inclusion.
2. EAGA requests that the Report produced by the Working Party makes it clear that HIV, whilst remaining incurable, is not a highly infectious disease.
3. EAGA opposes mandatory testing for HIV on a population-wide basis as an ineffective and disproportionate response. It supports the proposed

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policy of HIV testing for new entrants to the health service who will perform exposure prone procedures. EAGA also supports normalisation and expansion of voluntary HIV testing.

The completed respondent's form is attached. It is our intention to publish this response on the EAGA website at:

<http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/eaga/responses.htm>