



**Richard Bacon M.P.**

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SOUTH NORFOLK

The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP  
Secretary of State for Health  
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CONNECTING FOR HEALTH - POSSIBLE CONTRACT WITH CERNER

I understand that Connecting for Health's Local Service Provider, British Telecom, is about to appoint Cerner as the main software sub-contractor for the London cluster, with CfH's approval, as a replacement for GE/IDX.

This seems rather hasty given Cerner's performance to date in the South of England. Cerner / Fujitsu were supposed to be deploying 8 systems by Easter 2006 but have in fact only deployed one system, at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford, and this one system has caused the Nuffield huge difficulties.

I would request you to deny permission to BT to proceed with this contract to Cerner and instead allow individual NHS trusts to choose for themselves the supplier they want.

RICHARD BACON MP  
*Member of Parliament for South Norfolk*