

## **Consultation practice response**

You have asked stakeholders and other interest groups to respond to a review of your consultation practice. I respond briefly and with concern.

May I respectfully suggest that the current publication and working practices of the NIAUR leave much to be desired? In the last three years I have consistently tried to keep a close overview of the developments in the evolution of NIAUR policies. This experience is proving frustrating and unhelpful.

Critically, may I start from the observation that NIAUR never issues explanatory news releases? It is far from helpful to be asked to monitor documents described as 'news alerts' that obscure more than they reveal. The periodic 'news alerts' are unsympathetic to the needs of a general reader who wants to read a non-technical summary of issues or decisions.

The problem is further compounded by the lack of ANY regular news comments on behalf of NIAUR from SEMC.

May I invite your Board to initiate a radical review of how the decision making of NIAUR and SEMC is conducted? The present arrangements may serve (in part) the interests of specialist stakeholders but they do little to ensure a wider public understanding. In fact the present dictatorial attitude merits a careful reconsideration by NIAUR of its essential responsibilities to customers and taxpayers. The present systems, explanations and briefing mechanisms all leave much to be desired.

Your sympathetic response would be appreciated.

John Simpson