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National Institute of Economic and Social Research

In September 2001 the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) launched a forum for policy makers and businesses based in the Westminster area. This forum consists of a number of lunchtime seminars based on a central theme. The series is chaired by Frances Cairncross, CBE, Chair of the ESRC, with series summaries provided by Paul Wallace of *The Economist*. The seminars are held at a number of locations primarily based in the Westminster area and are free of charge.

The subject of the fourth NIESR/ESRC Westminster Economics Forum series will be "*The Provision of Public Services: Quality & Choice*".

The first seminar in this series is summarised below and will be held on Friday 26th November 2004 at NIESR, 2 Dean Trench Street, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HE. The seminar will begin at 12 noon followed by a buffet lunch, concluding at 2pm:

"The Provision of Health Services in Europe: Diversity and Change" by Dr Philip Stevens, NIESR

The healthcare sector is undoubtedly one of the most important sectors in any economy. Not only does the health of a nation influence the standard of life and productivity of its population, but the healthcare sector also represents one of the largest service industries in most developed countries. Currently its output accounts for about 7% of GDP in the EU-15, larger than either the financial services or retail trade sectors. However, there is no universal healthcare model; countries employ a diverse range of systems for the funding and provision of healthcare. In part this diversity reflects the historical evolution of the healthcare system, and in part the social, political and economic climate in which it operates. These differences will impact upon the level and quality of services provided and on the incentives within the system.

This presentation will examine the changing systems of healthcare provision in the EU and compare them with that of the markedly different US system. It will examine the economic, organisational and innovation characteristics of the health sector and review the existing evidence on performance. In particular, it will examine the effect of the structure of the healthcare system on performance and consider recent attempts to improve efficiency through reform in the context of organisational changes.

If you would like to attend this seminar please register by contacting the NIESR Events Office. Alternatively, if you are unable to attend this seminar but would like to receive summaries and invitations to future Westminster Economics Forum events, please join our mailing list, also by contacting the NIESR Events Office.

NIESR Events Office:

Email: events@niesr.ac.uk

Telephone: 020 7654 1901

Post: 2 Dean Trench Street, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HE

Web: <http://www.niesr.ac.uk/event/wef.htm> (summaries of previous WEF seminars are available)



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Aims and Scope

The *Review* is the quarterly publication of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research – one of Britain's oldest and most prestigious independent research organisations. The Institute's objective is to promote, through quantitative research, a deeper understanding of the interaction of economic and social forces that affect people's lives so that they may be improved. It has no political affiliation, and receives no core funding from government. Its research programme is organised under the headings of Economic Modelling and Analysis; Productivity; Education and Training and the International Economy.

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The *Review* welcomes the offer of high quality articles describing findings of social or economic research. Articles should normally comprise 4–10,000 words, excluding tables. All articles are externally refereed, but the *Review* is able to organise quick publication in appropriate cases. Full notes for contributors are available from Fran Robinson (email: f.robinson@niesr.ac.uk). website: <http://www.niesr.ac.uk>. Articles intended for publication should be sent to National Institute Economic Review, 2 Dean Trench Street, London SW1P 3HE, or by e-mail to Fran Robinson, email: f.robinson@niesr.ac.uk.

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