



The Prospectus Report

This audit of the health service, carried out by Prospectus Management Consultants in co-operation with the Department of Health, is likely to call for the scrapping of existing health boards and recommend a new national hospitals' agency should take responsibility for all hospitals, including the independent voluntary hospitals.

It calls for the Department of Health to be streamlined and suggests that it should concentrate on strategy development and policy making.

Such is the extent of the restructuring proposed by the Prospectus review that new legislation — to replace the 1970 Health Act — would be required.

There are up to 60 independent agencies involved in the supervision and delivery of healthcare at present.

It is understood that one of the key recommendations in the Prospectus report is to reduce that number by up to a half, with a view to improving efficiency and accountability.

The Prospectus report was promised in the 2001 National Health Strategy and is expected to be released simultaneously with the Brennan Report towards the end of this month.