



2nd February 2006

**BASHH RESPONSE TO 'SEXUAL HEALTH CLINICS NOT MEETING DEMAND' –
Published in Sexual Transmitted Infections Journal February 2006**

**Dr. Simon Barton, President, British Association for Sexual Health & HIV
(BASHH) comments:**

“The latest findings from the research conducted in Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is reflective of what is happening across the country. BASHH clinicians at the frontline of sexual health services, particularly GUM clinics, have long expressed concerns over the extreme pressure they work under, and the difficulties faced due to inadequate resource and capacity to meet the local population’s needs.

This problem was also highlighted in October 2005 by the BBC Panorama investigations, which revealed that a quarter of UK sex health clinics couldn’t treat patients needing urgent help within the recommended 48 hours.

BASHH has consistently stressed that improving sexual health services and tackling waiting times is an essential part of disease prevention, as failure to treat infections promptly – or at all, in some cases – means untreated patients remain sexually active in the community, and further increase the spread of STIs.

We welcome the recognition that the sexual health crisis in Britain is an important issue, which is now reflected in government plans to make sexual health one of the key national priorities for the NHS this year.”

-Ends-

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Notes to Editor:

- For the full BBC Panorama survey results on access to GUM clinics visit:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/panorama/4335964.stm>