Ring fencing

**Illustration:** (By the power vested in this advisory committee), I propose that we *ring fence* this tranche of monies.

**Meaning:** Let's play at being in control of the budget.

**Discussion:** A ring fence is a magical construct, a spell used by people wishing to protect their budget, or a portion of it, from evil spirits. Once a novelty, its introduction into common usage has been a major achievement of the recent management restructuring; and ring fencing has largely replaced the use of the pentagram in budget management, though the latter is still used in isolated parts of Britain such as mid-Wales.

The ritual of ring fencing is engagingly simple. It takes place in a committee setting. All it requires is for one person to utter a prayer or invocation containing the magic words "ring fence"; and for the rest of the committee to respond "Hear! Hear!" nod their heads, or stir fitfully in their sleep. Some authorities have argued that the intention is more important than the actual form of words and recommend that the invocation should be uttered by a committee member known for devoutness and simplicity.

Be that as it may, and we await the definitive managerial discussion document on this topic, the remarkable effectiveness of this procedure as it stands at present is more than borne out by the figures. These show conclusively that there have been no new cases of budgetary demonic possession since Griffiths.

**Note:** A major research effort is required to develop a whole new generation of broad-spectrum spells that would protect budgets against possession by colleagues.

**Nucleus development**

**Illustration:** Region has taken on board the revenue consequences of the new service. *Nucleus development* has been authorised at selected centres. Funds have been made available for two administrators and a part-time staff-nurse.

**Discussion:** This is, of course, a synonym for under-funding and is another example of *persuasive re-definition*, the managerial technique for manipulating the gullible referred to earlier. It sometimes occurs in the form Nuclear Development. Which form your district favours depends on the relative extent to which pathologists and radiologists have succeeded in infiltrating the local management structure; and is known as Beattie's Sign. The combined prevalence of the forms in -us and -ar gives the Usar Rating for a district, which can come in handy if you want a change from Jarman.

**Historical note:** Hans Jurgen Beattie is a Swedish philologist of Scottish descent. His recent paper 'Det Moedel Herrenvolks Sprachhil' or 'Linguistic Drift as a Middle Management Strategy' bids fair to become a classic of its kind.

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**Results of Limerick Competition**

You may recall that we set a competition in the Christmas edition of the Bulletin: Complete a limerick beginning with one of the following first lines:

"There was a disciple of Freud . . ."

"I've been to the Maudsley she cried . . ."

"There once was an MRCPsych . . ."

We received some 50 entries to this competition which ranged from the erudite to the banal. Clearly, those who entered had a lot of fun and in some cases applied a high measure of inventiveness. Several people sent in multiple entries and one entrant submitted ten efforts! The majority of entrants were male but chauvinism did not seem to play a major part.

The panel of judges were given a free rein and their hard work is much appreciated.

We will print the winning entries in beauty competition style, starting with tenth place and ending with the three winning entries.
There was a disciple of Freud Whose affect was blunted and void His libido was latent Repression was patent And the id was barely employed

Denise Riordan
Newcastle-upon-Tyne

There was a disciple of Freud Who failed to repress, and destroyed The barriers that hid Super-ego from Id; So his mind disappeared in the void!

Larry Culliford
Brighton

I've been to the Maudsley, she cried “My third personality died. I saw Dr Birley Who said ‘twas too early To say if I’m Jekyll – or Hyde!”

Lynette Napper
Education Department
Royal College of Psychiatrists

There was a disciple of Freud Who proclaimed his neurosis destroyed: “He has lifted the lid Off my troublesome Id And expunged all the joys I enjoyed!”

Hugh Thomas
Sheffield

There was a disciple of Freud Who kept calling the Master “Sigmoid” And in the end He went round the bend “Clearly anal-erotic”, said Freud

Ken Morrice
Aberdeen

I've been to the Maudsley!" she cried “My third personality died. I saw Dr Birley Who said 'twas too early To say if I'm Jekyll – or Hyde!”

Lynette Napper
Education Department
Royal College of Psychiatrists

There was a disciple of Freud Who multi-orgasms enjoyed So many she had She drove herself mad And suffered a Sub-arachnoid

Sue Denim
Bournemouth

There was a disciple of Freud Who multi-orgasms enjoyed So many she had She drove herself mad And suffered a Sub-arachnoid

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Sue Denim
Bournemouth

There was a disciple of Freud Who often got very annoyed This made patients hate him Yet seek to placate him By dreaming of things he enjoyed

Stephen and Kate Wilson
Oxford

I've been to the Maudsley she cried I've worked at the Tavi beside Now to get a damned job They must think I'm a slob They offered me North Humberside

Sydney Brandon
Leicester

Our congratulations to the Wilsons, Hugh Thomas and Ken Morrice who will each receive a book prize for their excellent efforts.

Our grateful thanks go to our panel of six professors who very kindly agreed to judge our competition. Their jumbled initials combine to make the nonsense phrase “Calm Warm Perm” – Entries by next Christmas, etc!

ADRIAN YONACE, Consultant Psychiatrist, St Ann’s Hospital, Canford Cliffs, Poole BH13 7LN