Background to proposal
1. In the previous parliamentary session, and in line with Rule 9.14.8 of Standing Orders, my final proposal for a Sunbeds Licensing (Scotland) Bill was lodged on 21 December 2006. The proposal was (and still is) for a Bill—

‘to require sunbed and tanning salons to be licensed’

2. The lodging of the final proposal, which attracted 66 MSPs covering all party’s in the last parliamentary session, including independent MSPs, was in the light of the 54 responses I received to my consultation exercise which commenced on 2 May 2006 when my initial draft proposal was lodged. That consultation period ran until 2 August 2006 and sought and received the views of a range of specific key stakeholders and members of the public. My consultation document was prepared with the assistance of, amongst others, Cancer Research UK Scotland and the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland.

3. A summary of responses to consultation on my draft proposal together with copies of each response and a summary of the responses, including the conclusions drawn from the responses, are available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) and have been lodged with clerks in the Non-Executive Bills Unit.

4. Under Rule 9.5.5, all public Bills fall at the end of the parliamentary session if not passed by the Parliament and this also applies to proposals for Members’ Bills. As such, I should now revert back to the draft proposal stage of the parliamentary process meaning that I would have to engage in a further consultation exercise or produce a statement of reasons explaining why I consider consultation unnecessary. I have opted for the latter course.

Statement of reasons
5. In relation to my draft proposal for a Member’s Bill in this new parliamentary session I do not consider that further consultation is required for the following reasons:

- there has been opportunity for key stakeholders and members of the public to express their views on the subject matter in response to my earlier consultation paper;
- while that consultation exercise was undertaken 12 months ago, there have been no policy initiatives since then that alter the policy intentions of my proposed Bill and views expressed to me since then have not differed from those expressed within the consultation period therefore there is no reason to consider that stakeholder/public views have altered significantly. Indeed, pressure to address problems arising from
over exposure to sun beds has increased. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) recently concluded that there is convincing evidence to support a causal relationship between sunbed use and skin cancer, particularly with exposure before the age of 35 years (International Journal of Cancer).

- I consider that my consultation exercise was robust, open and transparent and in accordance with good practice and that the views of key stakeholders such as local councils, health organisations and professionals and cancer charities were sought and obtained. Overall, there was strong support for what my proposed Bill will seek to do;
- to undertake a further consultation exercise on the same proposal would duplicate effort, incur unnecessary cost and could create an impression of ‘over consultation’.

6. I therefore do not consider that a further consultation exercise need be conducted on my proposal for a Bill for the reasons set out above. I believe that there is ample published, current and pertinent information to help test, develop and refine my specific proposal and proceed with the development of the Bill’s policy and its eventual production.

**Conclusion**

7. I therefore request the committee consider this statement of reasons and confirm that it is satisfied with the reasons for not consulting further on my proposal.

Ken Macintosh MSP
May 2007