Finance Committee

Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Bill Financial Memorandum

Submission from Royal College of Physicians Scotland

Consultation

1. Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
   Yes but no reference was made to financial assumptions

2. If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?
   N/A

3. Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?
   Yes

Costs

4. If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.

RCGP Scotland are supportive of further measures on tobacco control and do not anticipate that the terms outlined in this Bill carry any direct financial implications for GP Practices.

Conducting regular significant event analyses is already a contractual and relicensing requirement in General Practice and the systems in place support the pre-existing strong professional and ethical commitment to Duty of Candour. The financial implications set out in the Bill do not make direct reference to implications for General Practices and it is not possible to anticipate costs in complying with statutory arrangements at this time.

The concern for the unintended consequences which may result and the impact on the health care environment that implementing legislation for wilful neglect might have carries financial risk and a risk for resources which cannot be quantified and means it is not possible to comment on the costs outlined for implementing the Bill.

5. Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?

As above
6. If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?

This is unclear and with the current pressures in General Practice any further impact on resource would need support from Scottish Government.

7. Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill’s estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?

Not in the context of the comments already made.

Wider Issues

8. Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?

As above.

9. Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?

As above.

Dr Elaine McNaughton
Deputy Chair (Policy)
August 2015