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

Stage 2 Amendment on the provision of voice equipment: Call for Views

Royal College of General Practitioners Scotland

The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) is the academic organisation in the UK for general practitioners. Its aim is to encourage and maintain the highest standards of general medical practice and act as the ‘voice’ of general practitioners on education, training and issues around standards of care for patients.

The College in Scotland came into existence in 1953 (one year after the UK College), when a Scottish Council was created to take forward the College’s interests within the Scottish Health Service. We currently represent over 5100 GP members and Associates in Training throughout Scotland. In addition to a base in Edinburgh, the College in Scotland is represented through five regional faculty offices in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness, Dundee and Glasgow.

View on amendment 1: Duty to provide or secure communication equipment

RCGP Scotland supports the principle that appropriate and relevant equipment which aids and supports disability be made available to patients.

There must, of course, be sufficient resource available to provide such aids. We note with concern the recent draft budget announcement that the proportion allocated to general medical services in the community has been reduced. It has also been reported that Councils are under pressure in this morning’s Herald – ‘Elderly buy their own bath seats in cuts plan’ (20 January).

Further demands upon increasingly diminishing resources can, logically, only lead to further reduction of services.

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