NHS Tayside

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

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

In its 14th Report, 2015, on Stage 1 of the Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Bill the Health and Sport Committee noted that the Scottish Government would seek to amend the Bill at Stage 2 to provide a right to access voice equipment. On 11 December 2015 that amendment was lodged by the Scottish Government and is set out below. Also set out below is further written evidence provided by the Scottish Government which explains the purpose of that amendment, who is likely to have an interest in it as well as the financial impact of the amendment.

As the Health and Sport Committee did not specifically seek evidence on the provision of voice equipment during Stage 1, it agreed at its meeting on 7 January 2016 to issue a call for written views on this amendment.

Views are therefore sought on whether you support the amendment below and whether you would add/remove/change any part of the amendment.

Please send your views on the amendment by no later than 20 January.

Amendment 1: Lodged by the Scottish Government

After section 31
Maureen Watt
1 After section 31, insert—

<PART
PROVISION OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT
Duty to provide or secure communication equipment
After section 46 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, insert—

“46A Provision of communication equipment

The Scottish Ministers must, to such extent as they consider necessary to meet all reasonable requirements, provide or secure the provision of—

(a) communication equipment, and

(b) support in using that equipment, to any person who has lost their voice or has difficulty speaking.”.>

NHS Tayside supports the amendment and at this stage cannot identify any reason to amend / remove / change any part of the amendment.

We regard the inclusion of the phrase ‘reasonable requirements’ as essential in order that the clinical assessment and decision making in regard to prescription and provision of AAC should remain with the RMO

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