

## **Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill**

### **NHS Education for Scotland**

This response is submitted on behalf of NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and for your information:-

1. NHS Education for Scotland (NES) is a special health board responsible for supporting NHS frontline services delivered to the people of Scotland through education, training and workforce development. The work of NES helps to ensure that services are safe, effective and patient centred through a well trained workforce.
2. NES welcomes the opportunity to contribute evidence to the Scottish Government on this important Bill.
3. NES works closely with the Scottish Government Health Directorates, NHS Boards, UK Regulatory bodies, Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Colleges and Universities. In addition, key partners include the Scottish Social Services Council; Scottish Funding Council and increasingly other public sector organisations such as well as third sector organisations.
4. More specifically we support the development staff in key areas of mental health, psychological trauma and child health and child protection
5. In response to Bill we would like to make the following statements:
  - We welcome the establishment of the National Confidential Forum (NCF).
  - It would be appropriate to establish the NCF as a sub-committee of the Mental Welfare Commission (MWC). The MWC is independent of government and also has considerable experience with people who are vulnerable or require additional support.
  - It is important to consider implications of the Bill for education and workforce development in for health and social care staff. NES is well placed to provide such support to the workforce who may be required to participate in the NCF.
  - NES will monitor the education/development implications arising from the passage of this Bill

**Dr Stuart Cable**  
**Assistant Director of Educational Development**  
**NHS Education for Scotland**

4 April 2013