

Response from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's call for views on the Legislative Consent Motion for the Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill.

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh ("the College") welcomes the opportunity to provide views on the Legislative Consent Motion for the Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill.

The College supports in principle the prioritisation of UK medical graduates for foundation programme and specialty posts given the well-known, significant and increasing challenges these graduates have faced over a number of years in accessing these posts, especially since 2020. The pressures faced by UK medical graduates amid worsening competition ratios have been unacceptable and unsustainable and, we would suggest, the mismatch between the provision of posts and demand for them is another indication of the lack of adequate and robust workforce planning that has been experienced at all levels.

While the College supports the prioritisation in principle, we would wish to highlight a number of matters which we consider to be important. The College recognises and values the contribution of international medical graduates (IMGs) working in Scotland's NHS. We would urge the Scottish Government to strongly support the IMGs who are already working in Scotland's NHS and ensure that they are not restricted to service jobs but able to access career progression opportunities on a fair basis. We would also be extremely concerned if our existing IMGs felt so discouraged that they decide to leave the UK as our health service is, to a considerable extent, reliant on the contribution they make. We believe that the UK government should closely examine the issue of limits to PLAB (Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board) places as part of a broader assessment to ensure that flow is not unrealistic.

The College is aware that some organisations representing IMGs, for example BAPIO, have spoken out about some of these concernsⁱ and we would strongly encourage governments across the UK to engage with the issues that have been raised.

ⁱ [BAPIO Press Release January 2026 legislation FINAL.pdf](#)