

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Tuesday, 10 February 2026
6th Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill (LCM-S6-72) - Note by the Clerk

Background

1. The [Medical Training \(Prioritisation\) Bill](#) is a UK Government Bill lodged in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting MP, on 13 January 2026.
2. At time of writing, the Bill is currently at Committee Stage in the Lords.
3. On 21 January 2026, [LCM-S6-72](#) was lodged by Neil Gray MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, in accordance with Rule 9B.3.1(a) of the Parliament's Standing Orders. The LCM recommends that the Scottish Parliament consent to clauses 1 to 8 of the Bill.
4. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has been designated as lead committee for scrutiny of the LCM.
5. The Delegated Powers and Law Reform (DPLR) Committee considered the LCM at its meeting on [3 February 2026](#) and published its report on [4 February 2026](#).
6. The DPLR Committee noted the Scottish Ministers' commitment to seek to inform the Parliament of any request by the UK Government for consent to the making of regulations, and to allow a 28-day notification period where circumstances allow. The DPLR Committee has drawn this to the attention of the lead committee in its report. It has also written separately to both Scottish and UK Ministers regarding how powers will be exercised.
7. Ahead of consideration of the LCM and to help further inform its scrutiny, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee wrote to a number of stakeholders organisations for their views on the Bill and LCM. As of 4 February 2026, the Committee received submissions from the following organisations:
 - [General Medical Council \(GMC\)](#)
 - [NHS Education for Scotland \(NES\)](#)
 - [NHS Borders](#)
 - [NHS Lothian Medical Directors Group](#)
 - [Royal College of Anaesthetists](#)
 - [Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland](#)
 - [The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh](#)
 - [NHS Highland](#)
 - [NHS Lanarkshire](#)
 - [NHS Ayrshire and Arran](#)

8. In addition to these written responses, the Committee also received a copy of a letter regarding the Bill, sent by the [British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin \(BAPIO\)](#) to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting MP.

Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill

9. The Bill intends to introduce a system that gives graduates from UK medical schools (and certain other groups) priority for training places to become doctors. The UK Government had outlined plans for this in its [10-year health plan for England](#).
10. The Bill has been introduced as emergency legislation subject to an expedited timescale to allow prioritisation to be implemented for training programme recruitment rounds that are currently live and would affect those receiving offers for training posts starting in August 2026.
11. The [House of Commons Library has published a briefing on the Bill](#), as did the [House of Lords](#) in advance of the second reading of the Bill.
12. The Scottish Government LCM recommends that the Scottish Parliament consent to clauses 1 to 8 of the Bill. This also notes that it is intended that the legislation receives Royal Assent by 5 March 2026.
13. The following is a breakdown of the clauses seeking Scottish Parliament consent:

Clause 1 – For applications to the [UK Foundation Programme](#), clause 1 requires that places be offered first to UK medical graduates and to members of the priority group, which comprises graduates from selected institutions in Ireland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, or Switzerland. Prioritisation is determined by the location of the applicant's primary medical qualification rather than their citizenship or immigration status.

Clause 2 – For [specialty training programmes](#), clause 2 sets out prioritisation for 2026 applications, which applies at the offer stage. Priority would be given to UK medical graduates, members of the priority group doctors who have completed or are completing a relevant UK training programme, and applicants with certain citizenship or immigration status. (The Department of Health and Social Care has explained that immigration status is used as a temporary proxy in 2026 to capture doctors with significant UK health service experience. From 2027 onward, immigration status will no longer automatically confer priority).

Clause 3 – determines how interviews and offers are prioritised for speciality training from 2027 onwards. People that will be eligible for prioritisation are the same as those set out above (prioritisation for speciality training in 2026 only, clause 2), with two key differences:

1. Prioritisation based on immigration status would not apply automatically.
2. New prioritisation groups could be set out using further regulations. The regulations would limit to further prioritisation to people who:

- are likely to have “significant experience” of working as a doctor in the National Health Service in England, Wales or Scotland or in Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland, or
- fall within a specified immigration category.

Clause 4 – defines “UK medical graduate” and “the priority group”.

Clause 5 – defines “UK Foundation Programme”, “newly registered doctor”, “UK specialty training programme”, “relevant qualifying UK programme”, and what an “eligible applicant” is in relation to a training programme. UK specialty training programme excludes the public health specialty training programme, which is open to medical and non-medical applicants, and any specialty programme that takes place mainly outside the UK.

Clause 6 – defines “the appropriate authority” for the purposes of the Bill. In relation to medical training programmes anywhere in the United Kingdom, “the appropriate authority” is the Secretary of State; in relation to medical training programmes in Scotland, it is the Scottish Ministers.

Clause 7 – covers the procedure for making regulations. Regulations that relate to matters which are within the legislative competence of the devolved legislatures require the Secretary of State to obtain consent from the Scottish Ministers.

Clause 8 – covers extent, commencement and short title.

Today's Meeting

14. At the meeting today, the Committee will take evidence on LCM-S6-72 from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care Neil Gray MSP, and supporting officials.

Clerks to the Committee
February 2026