



Royal College of
General Practitioners

INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY – THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF PROPOSALS FOR MAJOR CHANGE IN NHS SERVICES

RCGP SCOTLAND COMMENTS – 25/01/08

Thank you for inviting our views on The Scottish Government consultation entitled “Independent Scrutiny – The Independent examination of proposals for major change in NHS Services”

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 4000 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.

This consultation document was disseminated to the RCGP Scottish Council and Faculty Boards as well as the RCGP Scotland patient group P3.

I am aware that some members have already submitted individual responses, but the College would like to make the following general points:

Q1 – Yes, but we feel that a flexible approach may be more appropriate.

Q2 – Yes, all decisions must be fully informed by most up to date evidence.

Q3 – Yes.

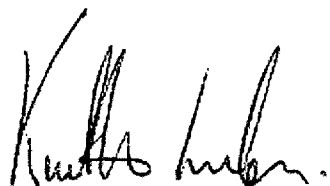
Q4 - Probably but need to ensure independence and be aware of the ability of pressure or specific interest groups to exert undue influence.

Q5 – This question was considered unclear and seems superfluous.

Q6 - Need to ensure that the process has careful costing.

We hope that you find these comments useful and look forward to seeing the next stage as this document evolves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Lawton'.

Dr Kenneth Lawton
Chair