

Finlay Scott CBE TD



Andrew Lansley CBE MP
Secretary of State for Health
Richmond House
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Dear Secretary of State

Independent review of insurance or indemnity as a condition of registration

I was asked by a previous Secretary of State, Alan Johnson, to examine whether making insurance or indemnity a condition of registration is the most cost effective and proportionate means of achieving the policy objective that all registered healthcare professionals must have cover. The aim is to ensure that, when harm has been caused through negligence on the part of a registered healthcare professional, those affected should receive any redress to which they are entitled.

I enclose my report. My main conclusion is that a statutory condition of registration is the most cost effective and proportionate means of achieving the policy objective. I believe that a condition of registration would add significant value – it would apply equally and unequivocally to all registered healthcare professionals; would be seen by patients and the public to do so; and would enhance patient and public confidence. In addition, it would reduce enforcement costs compared with alternatives, without increasing compliance costs or the costs of compliance testing.

If you accept my conclusions, you may wish to take into account the recommendations set out in the report.

I was assisted by a Review Group whose membership reflected the key interests; and by Kat Caldwell, Mike Lewis and Niall McDermott from your Department. I am grateful for their support and contributions.

My recommendations apply across the United Kingdom and include, or would impact upon, matters that are not reserved, I have, therefore, copied my report to Michael McGimpsey MLA in the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland; to Edwina Hart AM in the Welsh Assembly Government; and to Nicola Sturgeon MSP in the Scottish Executive.

*Yours
Andy S*