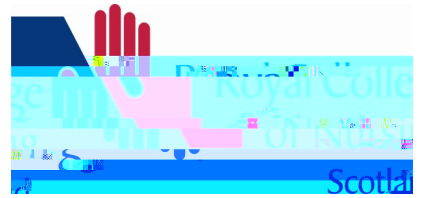


RCN Scotland's response to the  
Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security  
Committee's call for views on the

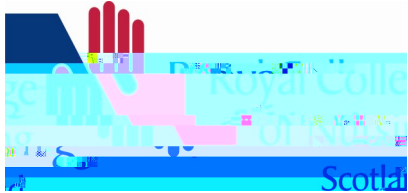
# Scottish Employment Injuries Advisory Council Bill

This response was originally submitted  
using a Scottish Parliament online form

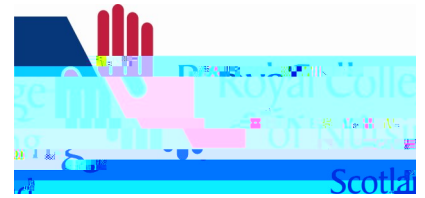
11 September 2023



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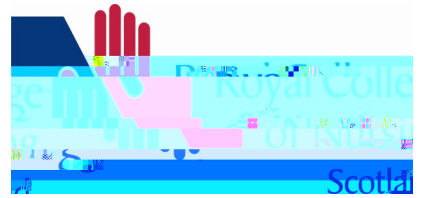
Question 2 - The Policy Memorandum explains that the Advisory Council is to be established in advance of the Scottish Government legislating for Employment Injury Assistance. The Scottish Government has yet to consult on the benefit and the need for an Advisory Council. What are your views on the timing of the Bill?

RCN Scotland response:

RCN Scotland supports the Scottish Government's commitment to providing a high quality of care for all patients. We believe that the proposed Employment Injury Assistance Bill is a positive step towards ensuring that patients and their families are protected and supported in the event of a serious illness or injury. We support the establishment of an Advisory Council to provide independent advice and guidance to the Scottish Government on the proposed Bill. We believe that the timing of the Bill is appropriate and that it will be implemented in a timely manner.

Question 3 - The Scottish Commission on Social Security already has powers to scrutinise Scottish social security regulations and to provide reports to the Scottish Government when asked to do so. What are the benefits or drawbacks of creating a new Advisory Council and how would this body operate alongside the Commission?

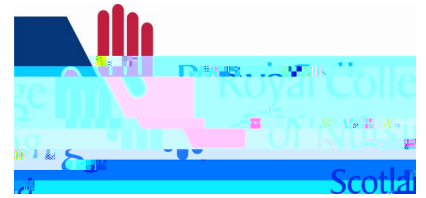
The Scottish Commission on Social Security (SCSS) is an independent body that provides advice and guidance to the Scottish Government on social security matters. We believe that the proposed Advisory Council would complement the SCSS and provide a further layer of independent advice and guidance. We believe that the Advisory Council would be able to provide a more focused and detailed analysis of the proposed Bill, and that it would be able to provide a more timely and effective response to the Scottish Government's requests for advice and guidance. We believe that the Advisory Council would be able to operate alongside the SCSS in a complementary and non-overlapping manner.



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Question 5 - What is your view on whether the size and balance of Advisory Council's membership is correct to deliver the Bill's purpose? If you think there should be changes to the membership set out in the Bill, please tell us why and what changes need to be made.

RCN Scotland response:

RCN Scotland response: The size and balance of the Advisory Council's membership is not correct to deliver the Bill's purpose. The Council should be a smaller, more focused body with a clear mandate to advise on the Bill's implementation. The current membership is too large and includes many members who are not directly involved in the day-to-day work of the profession. This makes it difficult to reach a consensus and to make timely decisions. We recommend that the Council be reduced to a maximum of 10 members, with a mix of representatives from the profession, academia, and the public. The Council should also have a clear mandate to advise on the Bill's implementation and to monitor its impact. We believe these changes are necessary to ensure that the Bill is implemented in a way that is in the best interests of the public and the profession.

Question 6 - Do you have any other comments about the Bill?

RCN Scotland response:

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