

HEALTH AND CARE (STAFFING) (SCOTLAND) BILL – POST STAGE 2 MEMBER BRIEFING

The Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee has now concluded its stage 2 proceedings on the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) bill.

Stage 2 is detailed consideration of the bill, the discussion of amendments, and then the disposal of amendments by a vote. Any MSP can lodge amendments and speak to them at the Committee, but only Committee members have a vote. The Health and Sport Committee is made up of 9 members: 4 SNP; 2 Labour; 2 Conservative and 1 Lib Dem.

Stage 2 took place over two meetings on 29 January and 5 February. You can watch those meetings [here](#).

Over the course of the two meetings, the Health and Sport Committee discussed over 130 amendments.

Many of the amendments lodged by MSPs had been inspired by the work that the RCN has done on the bill and through the [Ask for more](#) campaign.

Miles Briggs MSP (Conservative) lodged a series of amendments to ensure that there was a strong professional voice embedded in the legislation, and that decisions were based on evidence. He secured a commitment from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport to work together ahead of stage 3 to ensure that the bill delivers in these two key areas.

Alex Cole Hamilton MSP (Liberal Democrat) saw amendments agreed to which included the word 'safe' and which extended duties around health, safety and wellbeing to staff.

Alison Johnstone MSP (Green) managed to secure the backing of the majority of the committee for amendments on time for CPD, Senior Charge Nurses being non-caseload holding and the responsibility on Scottish Government to ensure there is an adequate supply of nurses for the NHS. These are things which the RCN has been campaigning on as part of its Ask for more campaign.

Monica Lennon MSP (Labour) lodged a series of amendments to strengthen the reporting which health boards and others need to do on how the legislation works in practice. Stronger reporting duties as agreed by the committee should make public scrutiny of staffing decisions easier.

David Stewart MSP (Labour) worked to make the Bill work in real time. The Scottish Government had also brought an amendment to this effect.

A number of amendments were not moved on agreement with a view to further consideration being given to the matters ahead of stage 3.

There is still a good amount of work to do ahead of stage 3. Nevertheless, the Bill is now in much better shape than it was as introduced. Many of the RCN's central asks have been accepted and will appear in the revised Bill. The original Bill and the Bill as update are [here](#).

Stage 3 is a meeting of the whole Parliament and is a further opportunity to change the bill.

This means that some of the things secured at stage 2 could still be removed from the bill. The RCN will be working hard to mobilise members and supporters of *Ask for more* ahead of stage 3 to do everything possible to make sure that the legislation is strong and will deliver for patients and staff.

RCN Scotland, February 2019

**It's time for change.
Ask for more.**

Show your support for Scotland's nursing teams at www.rcn.org.uk/askformore

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