

PE1493/G



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20 December 2013

Dear Andrew

### **CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1493 SUNSHINE ACT FOR SCOTLAND**

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Scotland welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the petition to introduce a Sunshine Act for Scotland to create a searchable record of all payments to NHS Scotland healthcare workers from Industry and Commerce. RCN Scotland is a professional body and trade union for nurses and health care support workers with around 39,000 members in Scotland.

The RCN is of the view that there will be sufficient regulation and guidance at a European level from 2016 onwards around disclosure of financial payments, which would mean that there is no specific need for an additional Sunshine Act for Scotland.

In June 2012, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), the body which represents the pharmaceutical industry across Europe, announced its ambition to work with the healthcare professional community to introduce disclosure of financial relationships beginning in 2016 for payments made in 2015.

Pharmaceutical companies have agreed that they will make these declarations from 2016 onwards. This in turn will oblige all health professionals to declare payments received. This will require declaration in 2016 of payments received from 2015 onwards.

The Ethical Standards in Health and Life Sciences Group (ESHLSG), a group of 20 organisations working together to improve the relationship between healthcare professionals and the pharmaceutical and life sciences industries, has done some

work looking at how this could be done. They launched a consultation<sup>1</sup> in January 2013 on establishing a public register of payments made to healthcare professionals by commercial organisations. The results of which are publicly available<sup>2</sup>.

If you would like to discuss anything in this response further, please contact Helen Richens, Policy Officer, [Helen.richens@rcn.org.uk](mailto:Helen.richens@rcn.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

**Theresa Fyffe**  
**Director**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eshlsg.org/wp-content/uploads/ESHLSG-payments-to-health-care-professionals-consultation-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eshlsg.org/>