

PE1712/E

British Medical Association Scotland submission of 17 September 2019

Thank you for your letter, inviting the BMA to comment on whether we believe there is a need for improved guidance around what information is required in a soul and conscience certificate.

I should also apologise for the time it has taken to respond and hope this letter is still of use to the committee.

As we said in our original response on the issue of improved guidance, we have not had any particular concerns raised with us around the quality of this guidance as it stands.

Again, that is not to say that it could not be reviewed or improved, but it is not a pressing issue that the BMA in Scotland is calling for action on.

If improved guidance could help ease the pressure on a GPs time and make the task both simpler and more straightforward, indeed this would be welcome.

Equally, the opposite is true and overburdensome or unduly bureaucratic guidance would not be a step forward.

Providing this balance is carefully struck, BMA Scotland would be happy to see improved information provided to GPs and GP practices.

I hope this is helpful and would be happy to provide any further information or feedback as required.