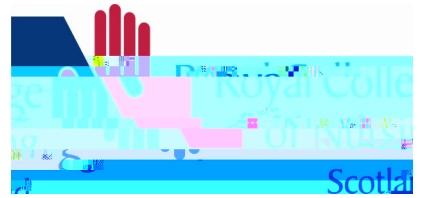


RCN Scotland's response to the
Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security
Committee's call for views on the

Scottish Employment Injuries Advisory Council Bill

This response was originally submitted
using a Scottish Parliament online form

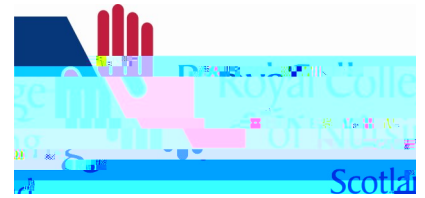
11 September 2023



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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 establish an Advisory Council for Employment Injury Assistance. We believe that the Council should be established as soon as possible, ideally before the Bill is introduced, to ensure that it has the opportunity to provide input on the design and implementation of the scheme. We are concerned that the current timeline for the Bill's passage may not allow for sufficient consultation with the Council and other stakeholders. We would like to see the Government commit to a clear timeline for the Council's establishment and to engage with it throughout the legislative process.

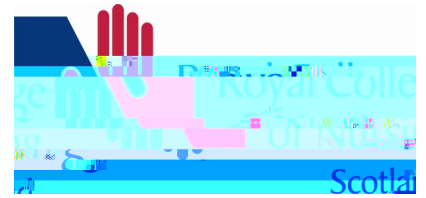
Question 3 - The Scottish Commission on Social Security already has powers to scrutinise Scottish social security regulations and to provide reports to the Scottish Government when asked to do so. What are the benefits or drawbacks of creating a new Advisory Council and how would this body operate alongside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

RCN Scotland response:

RCN Scotland supports the Scottish Commission on Social Security's role in scrutinising regulations and providing reports to the Scottish Government. However, we believe that the Commission's current powers are limited, and a new Advisory Council would provide a more robust and independent mechanism for oversight. The Council should have the authority to conduct its own investigations and to make recommendations to the Government. We would like to see the Commission and the Council work in a complementary way, with the Commission focusing on the technical aspects of regulations and the Council providing broader oversight and advice on the scheme's design and implementation.



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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 correct to deliver the Bill's purpose. The current membership is well represented and includes a range of stakeholders. There are no changes needed to the membership set out in the Bill.

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

RCN Scotland response:

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