

Medical Innovation Bill not to proceed – Academy statement

In response to the announcement that the Medical Innovation will not proceed in this Parliament the Academy said

“The desire to promote innovation is fully supported by the medical profession and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges welcomed the opportunity that the Medical Innovation Bill provided for this to be debated. However, the view of the Academy and Medical Royal Colleges, reaffirmed at the end of last year, is that we did not believe that the Bill would actually achieve this worthwhile intention.

When it was first presented Royal Colleges and other professional medical bodies had concerns about potential unintended implications of the Bill. The amendments made to the Bill certainly addressed a number of these concerns and were welcomed. There still, however, remained a danger of the unintended consequences of the Bill in diverting efforts away from properly conducted clinical research trials.

The Academy and Medical Royal Colleges did not believe that the legislation added clarity or value to current arrangements and was not, therefore, actually necessary. We felt that efforts could more helpfully be directed at removing some of the real and practical barriers that can impede innovation in the NHS.

The Academy, therefore, believes that the fact the Bill will apparently not progress in this Parliament should be used as positive opportunity to have a full and constructive debate on promoting innovation in the NHS as has been proposed. Medical Royal Colleges would be pleased to discuss with the Bill’s supporters and Government how this could best be achieved”

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