

Medical Innovation Bill – House of Lords Third Reading - 23 January 2015

The desire to promote innovation is fully supported by the medical profession and we welcome the opportunity that the Medical Innovation Bill has 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 do not believe that the Bill will 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 to date have certainly addressed a number of these concerns and have been welcomed.

There still, however, remains a danger of the unintended consequences of the Bill in diverting efforts away from properly conducted clinical research trials.

In addition, even as amended we remain unclear as to what value the Bill will add to the current position.

We do not therefore believe that the legislation is necessary and efforts could more helpfully be directed at removing some of the practical barriers that can impede real innovation in the NHS.

Medical Royal Colleges would be pleased to discuss with the Bill's supporters and Government how this could best be achieved.