



Joint Committee on Human Rights

The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
[Delivered by email]

10 February 2026

MEDICAL TRAINING (PRIORITISATION) BILL

Dear Secretary of State

I note that there was no separate ECHR memorandum accompanying the Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill when it was introduced in either House. The Bill's compatibility with the ECHR is covered very briefly in paragraph 56 of the respective Explanatory Notes.

According to the Cabinet Office's "Guide to Making Legislation", the explanatory notes to a Bill should contain a section on compatibility with the Convention rights setting out how the department has determined its position. This should set out whether Convention rights are engaged, any relevant case law, as well as an explanation for how any interference can be justified and proportionate. If the analysis is too lengthy to be included in the notes (for example, if it requires more than a few paragraphs) a separate ECHR memorandum should be prepared for publication alongside the Bill and submission to the Joint Committee on Human Rights when the Bill is introduced.

The analysis in the Explanatory Notes does not fully explain why the Bill is considered to be compatible with the ECHR. It does not explain what case law is relied on for the conclusion that the Bill does not engage any Convention rights, nor does it set out how any interference would be justified and proportionate if any Convention rights were indeed engaged.

The Department should publish a full ECHR memorandum as soon as possible to ensure that the continuing debate on the Bill is properly informed.

Yours sincerely



Joint Committee on Human Rights

David Alton.

Lord Alton of Liverpool
Chair, Joint Committee on Human Rights