

Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament

By email only: HSCS.committee@Parliament.Scot

Date 3 April 2025

Dear Convener,

[Right to Addiction Recovery \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence to the committee on 18 March as part of stage 1 scrutiny of the Bill. Hilary Steele gave evidence on behalf of the Law Society's Health and Medical Law committee.

I am writing to follow up on one point arising from the evidence session:

[Cross-border requirements](#)

During the evidence session, Emma Harper MSP raised a query as to whether "across the country" would mean Scotland only, and how the Bill would work with cross-border requirements that are already part of people's residential recovery? We would briefly add as follows:

Since health is a devolved matter, any legislation conferring a right to a specific treatment in Scotland would not give a person residing in Scotland the same right to that treatment south of the border, irrespective of whether there was a local arrangement in place to share healthcare facilities.

Any recourse for a failure to provide said treatment would need to be directed at the person's health board or local authority rather than the service supplier in England.

I hope that the above is of assistance to the committee. If the Society can assist further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Steele



Committee Member

Health and Medical Law Sub-Committee