

Caroline,

I attach responses from officials on the Skipton Fund.

From the responses the argument verges on the circular – a scheme operating differently in England to Scotland is legally sound if there is a clear policy reason for operating two separate schemes, yet there is no clear policy reason for the Scottish system.

I've spoken to CMO's office about this, who have investigated further and commented that

- a) the Scots only changed their payment scheme due to lobbying in the course of Parliament, not for any policy reason
- b) if there is a policy justification to maintain the status quo in the UK, a challenge to the English system is unlikely to succeed

Do you want to discuss this officials before a reply is drafted to SofS?

Daniel  
27/09

Yes  
I understand mi  
what concerns me is  
the fact that since being in post  
the Scottish simulation has been  
well known but no advice to follow  
til Aug. what info was new  
now led to rec policy  
change. The process  
1/11/10  
PTO

GRO-C