

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

GRO-C