

GPC Media Coverage Report – October 2010**BMA mentions in the national and regional media for October:**

The major health news story this month was the BMA's response to the White Paper. The BMA held two media briefings prior to issuing a press release and briefing paper. Its response was covered by every national newspaper, with the exception of The Times, and was the top story across the BBC's news outlets; it was also covered by all other national broadcast media. As other organisations published their responses subsequent coverage reiterated the BMA's position. In total, to date, there have been 150 mentions in the national and regional media.

	National	Regional	Total
Print:	21	87	108
Broadcasts:	37	43	80

National coverage:

SUBJECT	Print	Broadcast
White Paper / GP commissioning	15	37
CSR	2	-
Swine flu	1	-
NHS cuts	1	-
Electronic medical records / SCR	1	-
Out-of-hours	1	-
TOTAL	21	37

Regional coverage:

SUBJECT	Print & Broadcast
NHS reforms	98
Assisted dying	9
Electronic patient records	9
Commissioning	5
Obesity	2
Reconfiguration	2
Alcohol - pregnancy	1
General practice	1
General practice (MP visit scheme)	1
Junior Doctors	1
Medical ethics - contraception for minors	1

Press releases issued:

01/10/10 Potential benefits of health White Paper could be undermined by increased competition, says BMA

Scotland

BMA Mentions in the Scottish Press

We do not currently have a monitoring service to pick up on broadcast mentions so only interviews set up by the press office are recorded. The following includes BMA quotes or interviews relating to GP and public health issues.

Subject	Scottish Press	Scottish Broadcast	Online News
Alcohol	2		
Homeopathy	6	1	
Methadone Dispensing			1
Painkiller Addiction	1		
GP Out of Hours	1		1
Death Certification	4		
NHS Budget Cuts	1		
Flu Vaccination Campaign	3		
Dispensing GP			1
Total	18	1	3

Press Releases issued:

8 October BMA Scotland comment on Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill (George Fernie)
20 October BMA welcomes new protections for dispensing GP practices in Scotland (Andrew Buist)

Articles

28 October Scotsman
Analysis: Battle against germs seems to be paying off (Andrew Buist)

GPC Parliamentary and Assembly Activity Report

WESTMINSTER

The Parliamentary Unit in London keeps in contact with MPs across all the political parties.

Legislation

Public Bodies Bill

The BMA briefed for the Lords Second Reading debate on the Public Bodies Bill, which proposes establishes the legal framework for Government to abolish, merge or transfer functions of public bodies – a number include health bodies. The BMA's briefing is available at:

www.bma.org.uk/lobbying_campaigning/westminster/publicbodiesbill.jsp

Responsible Officers Regulations

The BMA briefed MPs ahead of a debate in the Commons on 3rd November to pass the regulations that will introduce responsible officers. The Lords will debate the regulations on 23rd November. The transcript of the Commons debate can be viewed at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmgeneral/deleg5/101103/101103s01.htm

Select Committees

Health Select Committee – Commissioning inquiry

The Committee announced that it will conduct a new inquiry into the implementation of policies for commissioning outlined in the Government's White Paper '*Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*'. The Committee is following up the work of the previous Health Committee's inquiry on commissioning in order to examine how the Coalition Government intends to resolve the issues which have undermined the effectiveness of commissioning in the NHS. Dr Richard Vautrey was questioned by the Committee on 2nd November: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmhealth/uc513-ii/513ii.htm

Health Select Committee – Public Expenditure inquiry

Following the Coalition Government's commitment to guarantee that health spending increases in real terms in each year of the Parliament, the Health Select Committee has launched a new inquiry to

examine the implications for the NHS of this commitment. Dr Hamish Meldrum was questioned by the Committee on 9th November: www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-committee/publications/

Health Select Committee – Revalidation of doctors inquiry

The Committee is undertaking a short inquiry into revalidation as it feels that the maintenance of public confidence in doctors' fitness to practice is important. The BMA has contributed written evidence to this inquiry and Dr Brian Keighley was questioned by the Committee on 4th November: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmhealth/uc557-ii/uc55701.htm

Home Affairs Committee – Firearms Control inquiry

The Committee will examine whether or not there is a need for changes to the way in which firearms and/or shotgun certificates are issued, monitored or reviewed as a means of preventing gun violence. As part of the inquiry, the Committee will consider proposals to improve information-sharing between doctors and the police in respect of gun licensing. Dr John Canning and Prof Vivienne Nathanson gave evidence to the Committee on 16th November. More information is available at:

www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/firearms-control/submissions/

MP-GP practice visit scheme

Nearly 150 MPs from all political parties have responded to the BMA's MP-GP practice visit scheme, which aims to give Westminster MPs the opportunity to spend some time in a GP practice in their constituency. The BMA's Parliamentary Unit has helped arranged almost 90 visits to GP practices for local MPs since the scheme was launched in July 2010.

Oxford doctors question local MP

Andrew Smith, the Labour MP for Oxford East, participated in a Q&A session with doctors in Oxford on Thursday 28th October 2010. The meeting, which was held at the John Radcliffe Hospital, was well attended by GPs, hospital doctors and medical students. At the meeting, which largely focused on the NHS White Paper, GPs asked Mr Smith about GP commissioning, the purchaser-provider split and privatisation of the NHS

BMA Parliamentary Unit
November 2010

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Legislation:

Alcohol Etc (Scotland) Bill – The BMA continued to lobby for support of this bill which is scheduled for the final Stage 3 debate in November

End of life choices (Scotland) Bill – The Committee is due to publish its report in November which will be followed by a Stage 1 debate.

Patient Rights (Scotland) Bill – The Committee is due to publish its report in November which will be followed by the Stage 1 debate. The BMA has been briefing MSPs to reject the general principles of this bill. However we are also working with the RCN to consider amendments to the bill.

BMA Scotland staff met with representatives from the Norwegian Medical Association to discuss the impacts of legally binding waiting times on their health service (where they have been in existence for around 10 years).

Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill – The BMA is currently preparing a written submission to the Health and Finance Committees for their stage 1 consideration of this bill.

Palliative Care Bill – This Committee is due to publish its bill in November with a stage 1 debate scheduled for December

Budget – the Scottish Government will publish the budget mid-November and it will be scrutinised by the Parliament in the New Year.

Other activities

PRide Award

BMA Scotland won the national CIPR PRide award for best public affairs campaign. This was for "General Practice Week – Celebrating the best of NHS General Practice in Scotland". The Public Affairs team, Dean and representatives from the RCGP attended the award ceremony in Edinburgh.

Elections 2011

The BMA Scotland manifesto is published in November.

Party Conferences

The BMA attended the SNP party conference in October and met with the Cabinet Secretary and Public Health minister as well as meetings with some backbench MSPs and senior policy staff. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the BMA's manifesto and the results of our survey of members. I spoke at a fringe event outlining the BMA's opposition to elected health boards in Scotland.

The BMA hosted a dinner for Labour MSPs prior to their party conference in October. 7 MSPs attended the dinner and one-to-one meetings with MSPs also took place during the conference.

Gail Grant
Senior Public Affairs Officer
BMA Scotland
November 2010