

RCGP Scotland consultation response

Healthcare Improvement Scotland: National guidance for NHS staff on speaking up in NHS Scotland

3) Before this survey, were you aware of the National Whistleblowing Standards and HIS's responding to concerns role?

- Aware of the National Whistleblowing Standards only
- Aware of HIS's responding to concerns role only
- Aware of both
- **Not aware of either**

4) Overall, the guidance is clear and easy to understand.

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

5) The structure and layout of the guidance document makes it easy to follow.

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

6) The sequencing of the information in the guidance document is logical.

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

7) Please add any comments in relation to the layout and accessibility of the document.

RCGP Scotland welcomes the draft National guidance for NHS staff on speaking up in NHS Scotland. We believe the information is laid out in a logical order following the stages of whistleblowing and appreciate that the inbuilt links improve the user's ability to navigate the document.

8) The guidance clearly explains how you can raise a concern.

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

9) The guidance clearly explains how you can access further support and advice about raising concerns.

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

10) The examples at the end of the guidance cover the main questions a person is likely to have in relation to raising a concern.

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

11) The examples at the end of the guidance help the reader to understand the process.

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

12) After reading the guidance, I am confident that the guidance will help someone who wants to raise a concern about NHS services.

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

13) After reading the guidance, I am clear on the roles and responsibilities of HIS and the INWO.

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

14) Please add any comments in relation to the content of the document.

RCGP Scotland welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. As the membership body for general practitioners in Scotland, we exist to promote and maintain the highest standards of patient care.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation on the National Guidance for NHS staff on speaking up in NHS Scotland. We recognise that supporting staff to raise concerns is firmly in the public interest and essential to maintaining the highest standards of patient care and safety. We are committed to fostering an open culture in which staff feel confident and empowered to speak up when necessary.

We also welcome the inclusion of primary care within the scope of the guidance, making it relevant to general practitioners and the wider practice team. However, we would appreciate further clarification on the reasons for any limitations on the extent to which Healthcare Improvement Scotland can consider concerns relating to primary care.

15) Would you recommend any changes to the guidance to improve clarity, accessibility, or effectiveness?

As outlined in our response to question 14, we would welcome further clarification on the role of Healthcare Improvement Scotland in examining concerns raised through whistleblowing within primary care settings. Providing this explanation either directly within the guidance document or via a clearly signposted hyperlink would enhance its relevance and usefulness for healthcare professionals working in primary care.

It might improve clarity to include trainees as well as students in the description on page 5 that links to the relevant part 9 guidance.

16) Is there important information you feel should be added to the guidance?

See answer to question 15.

17) Do you have any other comments or suggestions for improving the guidance?

NA.