



Consultation on the Public Health (Wales) Bill

RCP Wales further written evidence

About us

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) aims to improve patient care and reduce illness, in the UK and across the globe. We are patient centred and clinically led. Our 33,000 members worldwide, including 1,200 in Wales, work in hospitals and the community across 30 different medical specialties, diagnosing and treating millions of patients with a huge range of medical conditions.

The Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM) is a standard setting body that is involved in recommending the educational needs of doctors working in forensic and legal medicine.

Amdanom ni

Mae Coleg Brenhinol y Meddygon yn amcanu at wella gofal cleifion a lleihau salwch, yn y DU ac yn fyd-eang. Rydym yn sefydliad sy'n canolbwyntio ar y claf ac sy'n cael ei arwain yn glinigol. Mae ein 33,000 o aelodau o gwmpas y byd, gan gynnwys 1,200 yng Nghymru, yn gweithio mewn ysbytai a chymunedau mewn 30 o wahanol feysydd meddygol arbenigol, gan ddiagnosisio a thrin miliynau o gleifion sydd ag amrywiaeth enfawr o gyflyrau meddygol.

For more information, please contact:

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Further to the RCP's oral evidence to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee on 11 January 2017, please find below additional evidence, especially on our recommendation that the age of consent for intimate piercing contained within this Bill be raised to 18 in line with the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969.

- Genital piercing is considered in under 18 year olds to be type 4 female genital mutilation (FGM) and [therefore a criminally reportable event](#). This came into place at the end of 2015.
- In many developed countries, including Australia, New Zealand and most US states, intimate piercing of minors (those under 18 years old) is considered a criminal offence.
- Good practice in the piercing community will not carry out intimate piercing with those under 18 years old. Some even restrict it to those over 21, as they view it as a safeguarding issue.

You may also find this [Tattooing and body piercing guidance toolkit](#) from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health helpful.

More information about our policy and research work in Wales can be found [on our website](#). Alternatively, please contact Lowri Jackson, RCP senior policy and public affairs adviser for Wales, at [redacted] with any questions.

With best wishes,

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