POLICY NOTE

THE HEALTH BOARDS (MEMBERSHIP AND PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2025

SSI 2025/147

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 2(10) and paragraph 2A of Schedule 1 to the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 ("the 1978 Act"). Appointments are made by the Scottish Ministers. The instrument is subject to negative procedure.

Summary Box

Regulation 3 of the Health Boards (Membership and Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2001 ("the Principal Regulations") provides that, for the purposes of paragraph 2A of Schedule 1 of the 1978 Act, at least one of the persons appointed to be a chairperson or a member of the Boards in Grampian, Greater Glasgow, Lothian and Tayside must hold a post at a university with a medical or dental school.

The purpose of this instrument is to add Fife Health Board to that list. This ensures that, from the date the instrument comes into force, either the chairperson or one of the members of Fife Health Board must hold a post at a university with a medical or dental school. The amendment follows from the University of St Andrews (Degrees in Medicine and Dentistry) Act 2021 (asp 13) which restored to that university, situated within the Fife Health Board area, the power to award degrees in Medicine and Dentistry.

Policy Objectives

The amendment of Regulation 3 of the Principal Regulations will align NHS Fife with other Health Boards that are required to have a university member on their Board, demonstrating NHS Fife's partnership with a university which has a Medical School within their geographic Board area.

This aligns with the Scottish Government's commitment to promoting collaboration between academic institutions and the NHS, enhancing decision-making on health education, workforce planning and service delivery.

This change aims to:

- Strengthen academic representation within NHS Fife's governance structure
- Support collaboration between NHS Fife and the University of St Andrews in medical education and research.
- Align NHS Fife's governance model with other Boards that have similar University partnerships.

This policy will benefit NHS Fife, by recognising the partnership with the University of St Andrews, with several strategic benefits:

- **Enhanced Medical Education and Training** – with NHS Fife playing a key role in training medical students, providing clinical placements and real-world experience
- **Strengthened Workforce Pipeline** – by being directly involved in medical training it may help NHS Fife attract and retain doctors
- **Research and Innovation Opportunities** – the collaboration fosters joint research initiatives, improving patient care through evidence-based practice, clinical trials and medical advancements
- **Reputation and Prestige** – formal ties with a prestigous academic institution enhance NHS Fife's profile as a centre for medical excellene, making it an attractive destination for both students and healthcare professionals
- **Access to Additional Funding and Resources** – university partnerships often open doors to grants, research funding and other financial resources which will benefit the Health Board.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 Compatibility

The Scottish Ministers have made the following statement regarding children's rights.

In accordance with section 23(2) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 (the Act), the Scottish Ministers certify that, in their view, the Health Boards (Membership and Procedure) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 are compatible with the UNCRC requirements as defined by section 1(2) of the Act.

EU Alignment Consideration
This instrument is not relevant to the Scottish Government's policy to maintain alignment with the EU.

Consultation

The amendment follows from the University of St Andrews (Degrees in Medicine and Dentistry) Act 2021 (asp 13) which restored to that university, situated within the Fife Health Board area, the power to award degrees in Medicine and Dentistry.

The primary purpose of the amendment is to bring Fife Health Board into line with the other prescribed Boards (Grampian, Greater Glasgow, Lothian and Tayside). Therefore, no public consultation was carried out.

Impact Assessments

An Equality Impact Assessment and Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment have been carried out on the Health Boards (Membership and Procedure) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 and are attached. There are no equality/children's/privacy, etc. impact issues.

Financial Effects

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care confirms that no BRIA is necessary as the instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business.

Scottish Government
Chief Operating Officer Directorate

May 2025