



Royal College of
Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Bringing to life the best in women's health care

14 February 2012

Dear Colleague

I am most grateful to the many Fellows and Members who have emailed me over the past 24 hours in response to my letter of 13th February on the Health and Social Care Bill. Many responses have supported the position of "critical engagement" that Officers of the College Council have adopted; a significant number have asked that Council now distances the College from this legislation by calling for the Bill's withdrawal. It is clear from all these responses that this is an issue of enormous importance to many members of this College.

I have therefore decided to call an Extraordinary General Meeting of all Fellows and Members in the British Isles. At this EGM I will be seeking members' guidance on the College's future action in regard to the Health and Social Care Bill. **The EGM will take place on Friday, 9th March at 4 pm in the Lecture Theatre of the RCOG.** This email is to give you formal notice of this meeting, notice of which will also be placed on the RCOG website.

Because of the schedule of the legislation, it is important that the EGM takes place as soon as possible. I fully appreciate that it will be very difficult for many members to attend who wish to register their views on the RCOG's future position. At the EGM I will be seeking guidance on whether the College, in the interests of women's health, should continue to press the Government to improve the legislation in the Health and Social Care Bill; or whether the RCOG should call for the withdrawal of the Health and Social Care Bill. Many of you have already expressed your views on your College's position. However, in order to maximise input from the membership, if you are unable to attend on 9th March, I am able to accept your views by individual email.

You should email if you are unable to attend the EGM but wish the EGM to register your views on whether the College should continue its policy of "critical engagement" or should call for the withdrawal of the Health and Social Care Bill. Emails must be individually submitted either to the President (president@rcog.org.uk) or to the Chief Executive (iwylie@rcog.org.uk) by 12 noon on Friday 9th March. All submissions will be formally registered at the EGM by the Senior Vice President, Professor James Walker. You may also email to nominate a member attending the EGM to record your views.

A report of the EGM, including all submissions, will be sent to all Fellows and Members of the British Isles. Any recommendations of the EGM will be made public and reported to the College Council, which has the final decision on the College's position on the Health and Social Care Bill.

Dr Tony Falconer
President

and

Ian Wylie
Chief Executive

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