

Second Reading briefing for peers on age assessment provisions in the Nationality and Borders Bill

January 2022

Introduction

Ahead of Report Stage of the Nationality and Borders Bill on

Paediatricians should not need to be involved in age assessments as they won't add any further information to the process.

It is important for paediatricians, if contacted, to explain that dental x-rays, bone age and genital examination will currently not add any further information to the assessment process.

Safeguards

Some age assessments carried out by the Home Office have been subject to dispute with some young people subsequently assessed to be minor. Further information about age disputes is available from the Coram Children's Legal Centre.

Further information

Further information on our guidance related to refugee and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people [can be found here](#). Please note this guidance is being reviewed early in 2022.

About RCPCH

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) is the membership body for paediatricians, representing more than 20,000 child health professionals in the UK and abroad. We are responsible for the training, examinations and professional standards of paediatricians across the country, and we use our research and experience to develop recommendations to promote better child health outcomes.

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