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Baroness Royall of Blaisdon,
House of Lords,
London,
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27 October 2025

Dear Jan

I would like to thank you for your valuable contributions to the question for short debate raised by Lord Black of Brentwood on Fracture Liaison Services (FLS) on 16 October.

You asked what consideration the Department is giving to treating osteoporosis with Molecular Biophysical Stimulation (MBST). I agreed to look into this further and am writing to provide you with an update.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), which provides evidence-based guidance for the NHS, reviewed the use of magnetic resonance therapy (MRT), which is also known as MBST, for knee osteoarthritis in 2021. NICE concluded that while MRT appeared to have no major safety concerns for knee osteoarthritis, the evidence regarding its efficacy was found to be inadequate in terms of both quality and quantity, with NICE citing a key randomised trial that showed no significant benefit over a placebo.

NICE recommended that MRT should only be used in the context of a research study and that healthcare professionals should therefore discuss participation in research with patients. NICE also recommended that more research is needed in the form of appropriately powered randomised controlled trials to compare MRT with a placebo.

The lack of efficacy evidence for knee osteoarthritis would make it unlikely for NICE to recommend MBST for a different condition like osteoporosis without significant new research.

You also asked what assurance the department can give on the sufficiency of radiographers to deliver scans. As I set out in my initial response, the 10-year workforce plan will ensure the NHS has the right people in the right places, with the right skills to care for patients when they need it.

We will continue to support the development of the imaging and radiography workforce. NHS England are funding radiography training apprenticeships to support Trusts in developing the radiography workforce and develop the pipeline of individuals along the career pathway.

Once again, I'd like to extend my thanks to you for participating in the debate and for raising these questions. I will place a copy of this letter in the library.

Yours sincerely,

BARONESS BLAKE OF LEEDS, CBE