



## **Government White Paper not well received.**

The debate on how to pay for care for the elderly into the future continues UK wide. In England and Wales the Dilnot commission proposed over a year ago a lifetime cap on care costs for everybody, with the government making up the shortfall.

But the long awaited White Paper following Dilnot failed to adopt the Dilnot recommendations, and left the issue of how to meet long term care costs unresolved. This was not well received by many involved in the Care Industry.

Particularly outspoken was Janet Davies of Symponia, the national professional body for care fees advisors who commented "The White Paper categorically fails to provide any answers. A solution to the on going and increasing problem is needed not only for the poorly and vulnerable elderly people already in care, but for the thousands of healthy retired people who want to be able to take control of their own care destinies and plan for the future with some semblance of certainty"

Of course paying for care for older people is under the control of the Scottish Government – so strictly speaking the Dilnot proposals won't apply up in Scotland. However most commentators think if England and Wales were to go down the "Capped Care Costs" route the Scottish Government would probably have to follow suit.

David Borrowman of Solicitors for Older People Scotland comments "At least the White Paper has provoked serious debate in England – and that has to be good. I don't think we have yet seen that level of debate in Scotland. But we face the same challenges with the number of people over 75 apparently likely to nearly double in the next twenty years or so, and with that presumably a similar increase in the funding necessary for their care. Somehow or other these costs need to be met and possibly we need a Scottish "Dilnot" to find out how this can be done. Older people really fear the costs of care should it be needed for them or their partner, I think until a clear policy is agreed on all care costs – not just personal care - that fear will remain."

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