



The professional association for
social work and social workers

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Sent by email

Dear Ms Don

I am writing to thank you for your support of social work in the Herald article of 22 October 2023 *Home Office plan to use MRI to age assess asylum seekers reprehensible*.

I am very pleased to see the Scottish Government, quite correctly, publicly calling the plans of the current UK Government in regard to 'scientific methods of age assessment' reprehensible.

As you may know, BASW UK has been campaigning against the creation of a National Age Assessment Board (NAAB) and are calling for the repeal of the Illegal Migration Act by the next UK Government.

You may be aware that, BASW, as the professional association for social work, has asked our members and all other social workers, not to take up posts with the new NAAB. As this board is directly accountable to the Home Office and therefore the Home Secretary, we are acutely concerned that social workers within the NAAB may be placed under undue pressure to uphold political priorities, rather to objectively carry out the exceedingly difficult role of ensuring that adults and children arriving in the UK get the support they are entitled to.

I have included links to our statements on these matters below in case they are of interest to you and your colleagues.

I thank you for you for taking the time to read this letter and would also take this opportunity welcome any further discussion on this, or any other, matter.

Yours sincerely,

Alison

Alison Bavidge
National Director, SASW: Part of BASW UK

[BASW calls for Illegal Migration Act to be repealed by the next UK Government | BASW](#)

[BASW Statement on Biological Methods of Age Assessment | BASW](#)

[BASW UK Statement: National Age Assessment Board | BASW](#)