Written Question

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to bring into force each of the powers to protect young people from sunbed use available under the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010.

Anne Milton (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Public Health) Health)

The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 (the Act) comes into force on 8 April 2011. This purpose of the Act is to prevent people under the age of 18 from using sunbeds on commercial premises, by making it an offence for sunbed operators to allow people under the age of 18 access to sunbeds on their premises.

Regulation making powers (for example the one requiring that the use of sunbeds to be supervised) would begin as soon as possible after the Bill became an Act. Departmental officials are considering options to take forward the powers to regulate and may make recommendations to Ministers in due course. However they are giving priority to implementing the main provisions of the Act (namely those that prohibit sunbed operators from allowing those under the age of 18 from using their sunbeds). However, this parliamentary question is an illustration of the continuing interest there is in this topic within Parliament and beyond.

We are currently considering the regulation making powers contained in the Act.

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