Letter

Chief medical officers

Perhaps not so groundbreaking after all?

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Scally rightly praises Liam Donaldson for using the role of chief medical officer to pressure the government to act on smoking but is wrong in stating that this "broke new ground."1

The ground was well and truly broken by perhaps the greatest of all chief medical officers, George Godber (1960-73), whose comments about smoking were reported by the Times as having "embarrassed the government about as much as a civil servant can."

Notes
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Footnotes

Competing interests: None declared.

References

1. S

Scally G. Chief medical officers: the need for public health at the heart of government. BMJ2013;346:f688. (5 February.)

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CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICERS

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1 Scally G. Chief medical officers: the need for public health at the heart of government. BMJ 2013;346:f1699. (5 February.)

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