

This site uses cookies. By continuing to browse the site you are agreeing to our use of cookies. Find out more here



Identify, Improve, Inspire

BMJ Quality

BMJ

Helping doctors make better decisions

Letter

Chief medical officers

Perhaps not so groundbreaking after all?

BMJ2013;346doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.f1695>(Published 19 March 2013)

Cite this as:BMJ2013;346:f1695

Mike Daube, professor of health policy¹

Author Affiliations

¹Curtin University, Perth, WA 6845, Australia

m.daube@curtin.edu.au

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

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2013;346:f1695

Footnotes

•
Competing interests: None declared.

References

1. ↵

Scally G. Chief medical officers: the need for public health at the heart of government. *BMJ*2013;346:f688. (5 February.)

[FREE Full Text](#)

BMJ Group
Privacy and Cookie Policy
Website T & Cs

LETTERS

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICERS

Perhaps not so groundbreaking after all?

Mike Daube *professor of health policy*

Curtin University, Perth, WA 6845, Australia

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.”

Competing interests: None declared.

1 Scally G. Chief medical officers: the need for public health at the heart of government. *BMJ* 2013;346:f688. (5 February.)

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2013;346:f1695

© BMJ Publishing Group Ltd 2013