Dear Mr MacDonald

HEALTH AND CARE (STAFFING)(SCOTLAND) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 13 September 2018 in relation to the use of workforce planning tools within NHS Western Isles.

Attempts have been made to utilise some of these tools but we have been unable to run meaningful reports:

**Adult inpatient**

We did attempt to run the tools within one of our medical wards (which also includes a medical assessment unit, rehabilitation ward and the surgical ward. However, we could not interpret the data and were therefore unable to run reports.

**Small Wards**

This tool does not lend itself to our other medical ward which includes a children’s bay and a high dependency unit

**Emergency Dept**

We have not received training on this tool.

**Clinical Nurse Specialist**

We have not received training on how to use these.

**Community Children’s Specialist Nurse**

We do not employ community children’s nurses.
Though we have been unable to utilise the SSTS platform, NHS Western Isles does use the Professional Judgement tool and the Golden Jubilee tool once per annum at budget setting times. This is done in association with Senior Charge Nurses, the Hospitals Manager and Principal Accountant for the areas. Ward bed numbers have remained constant over the past few years and wards are staffed to full occupancy. Consequently, there has been little or no change to the ward establishments.

NHSWI is now in communication with the newly formed team at the Scottish Government to take this work forward and implement the tools appropriately. We hope to receive training by the end of October that will enable the tools to be run on a regular basis.

We will shortly be advertising for a Senior Nurse, Nursing and Midwifery Workload and Workforce Planning Programme to support this work.

I hope the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Jamieson
Chief Executive
NHS Western Isles