



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Dear Convener,

RE: COVID-19: Scottish Government's Advisory Group on Economic Recovery

Thank you for your letter of the 8 Jul 2020, detailing the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee's work on the impact of COVID-19 on Scotland's economy.

We note the following recommendation from the Scottish Government's Advisory Group on Economic Recovery (AGER) report, which applies to the Health and Sport Committee remit:

5.15 Care Sector (Health and Sport Committee)

The Scottish Government should accelerate its work on reforming adult social care; and should urgently review the structure, funding and regulation of the sector to ensure its sustainability and quality going forward. The review should address workforce issues, including the Fair Work Convention's 2019 report on the sector; and should recognise and support the contribution of unpaid carers.

In December 2019, the Health and Sport Committee issued a call for views in relation to its work on adult social care. Initial scrutiny recognised fundamental issues in social care. This inquiry was intended to be a strategic exploration of how social care can be co-ordinated, commissioned and funded differently in the future.

COVID-19 both accentuated these fundamental issues and highlighted further issues for scrutiny in relation to social care. On 4 June 2020, the Committee took evidence

from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport on the issue of COVID-19 in care homes.

The Committee has a wealth of evidence from each of the above pieces of work and is now undertaking further work on the scrutiny of adult social care. This inquiry will:

- examine the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the social care sector;
- examine wider issues impacting social care delivery that have come to light because of COVID-19; and
- explore how those lessons can be applied in the future to improve social care systems and delivery in Scotland.

It is intended this inquiry will draw on work already undertaken and take forward targeted engagement on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on those parts of the sector not represented at our 4 June evidence session, including unpaid carers and personal assistants.

To complement this work, we have invited the Care Inspectorate to give evidence to the Committee on 25 August 2020 to examine lessons from the impact of COVID on adult social care and the strategic role of the Care Inspectorate going forward.

It is intended our inquiry into adult social care will progress in Autumn 2020 and will contribute to the Scottish Government's proposed review of adult social care.

Yours sincerely



Lewis Macdonald
Convener, Health and Sport Committee