



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Via email only

Health and Sport Committee
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Dear Safia,

Health and Sport Committee consideration of the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill

On the 12 May 2020, the Committee heard evidence from Dr Anne McLellan, Consultant in Sexual and Reproductive Health, from NHS Lanarkshire in relation to the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill.

Following the session, the Committee are keen to hear Healthcare Improvement Scotland's views on the issues highlighted and topics discussed during the session.

The following resources are now available:

- [The Official Report](#)
- [Broadcast recording of the session](#)

In Annexe A, we enclose below a list of questions that we put to Dr McLellan during the session. We are particularly interested to hear your views on the evidence presented in relation to these questions, to ascertain if there are areas of agreement or disagreement and if you have any additional evidence to add.

Please note we have also added additional questions at the end of Annexe A, specifically for Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response by Friday 22 May 2020 and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Lewis Macdonald
Convener, Health and Sport Committee

Annexe A

List of questions from the Health and Sport Committee meeting on 12 May 2020

Please note, you do not need to reply to each question unless you have additional evidence to add to Dr McLellan's evidence from the session.

The examination service

1. Are/will appropriate facilities and workforce be in place to allow the successful implementation of this Bill?
2. Has/will adequate workforce planning be undertaken?
3. Is it possible/desirable to operate a 24/7 service?

The retention service

4. How should the retention service operate?
5. Is further information is needed on the ownership of evidence, samples and personal data?
6. How long should samples be kept?

Consistent service across Scotland

7. What is needed to ensure that a consistent service can be delivered across Scotland?
8. Is there a risk that health boards will implement the legislation in different ways leading to variation in service provision?
9. What guidance would you like to see from the Scottish Government on the examination and retention service?

Professional judgement

10. Do you have any concerns about the term "professional judgement" being used in the Bill?

Age of self-referral

11. Do you think that self-referral should be only available for people aged over 16, and what it is the basis for your view?

Financial implications for NHS Boards

12. Are there any concerns regarding the long-term funding of the statutory provisions in this Bill?

13. Has sufficient consideration been given to the costs associated with delivering service improvements to meet the HIS standards?
14. Are there any additional financial or funding concerns relating to provisions in the Bill? Please provide detail on any anticipated costs and savings.

Public awareness

15. What is your view on a public awareness campaign around self-referral? How can/should this be co-ordinated?
16. How will health boards take inequalities into account when implementing this legislation to ensure that the Bill will improve “equity of access to services should improve outcomes across all social groups”?

Advocacy and mental health support

17. Should the Bill give victims a right to advocacy services? How important is this?
18. To what extent do NHS Boards provide immediate and ongoing psychological support to victims of sexual assault and rape?

Additional questions

19. What is the single most important thing that could accompany the Bill to improve implementation?
20. What more should Scottish Government be doing once the Bill has been implemented?
21. What more needs to be done to support implementation of the Bill in terms of recruitment and workforce planning?

Additional questions for Healthcare Improvement Scotland that were not asked at the session:

22. What involvement have victims had in the development of the standards and indicators?
23. To what extent the indicators encompass qualitative data on the experience of victims?