



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Via email
Ralph Roberts
Chief Executive
NHS Shetland

Health and Sport Committee
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Dear Ralph,

I refer to the evidence NHS Shetland gave to the Health and Sport Committee on Tuesday 15 May alongside NHS Orkney and NHS Western Isles. As has become the normal approach following such sessions the Committee wishes further information on evidence heard during the session and to raise questions there was insufficient time to ask.

The Official Report of the meeting is available [here](#) and for ease of reference I will refer to passages from it by reference to the relevant column numbers.

Recruitment and retention

Simon Bokor-Ingram noted NHS Shetland has been looking at what can be put in place to meet the need for recruitment of GPs (COL 11). Are you able to provide further information on how this is being taken forward? Do you believe the new GMS contract can assist in providing appointments with a range of health professionals in primary care and if so what specific ways do you envisage this assistance?

Waiting times

The maintenance of elective waiting times was one of the action points in a letter from the Cabinet Secretary to the Chair of the Board after your 2016/17 accountability review. Can you advise whether work undertaken following this letter, including the recruitment of a consultant clinical psychologist, has improved access and treatment for patients in adult psychological services?

We note the percentage of patients waiting under 12 weeks from referral to first outpatient appointment (as at 31 Dec 2017) was 78.8%, exceeding the Scottish average but missing the 95% target. Can you advise what

sustainable measures are in place to address the backlog in patients waiting for outpatient appointments?

Finance

The most recent audit of NHS Shetland highlighted plans to make efficiency savings of £12.6 million over the next five years. Can you advise:

- an update on the position with regards to savings achieved at the end of 2017/18
- how the Board are planning to meet their recurring savings target for the next year
- how feasible are the savings plan for the next five years

The Committee would welcome your response to this letter by 31 July.

Yours sincerely



Lewis Macdonald
Convener
Health and Sport Committee