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Lewis Macdonald MSP  
Convener  
Health and Sport Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
By email

5<sup>th</sup> of February 2019

Dear Convener

### **Queen Elizabeth University Hospital - Review**

On Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, I provided an update to Parliament on the Cryptococcus Infection at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and advised Parliament on the mucoraceous mould infection on the basis of the unavoidably limited information I had at that time. I thought it would be helpful to inform the committee on the next steps we are proposing to take in order to address the wider issues at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

In addition, I have also requested that the Healthcare Environment Inspectorate (HEI) undertake an inspection of the QUEH site (including the Institute for Neurology) as a matter of urgency in order to provide further independent assurance of the safety of the patient care environment.

Following immediate feedback to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, I have asked that the outcome of the inspection be reported directly to the Chief Nursing Officer at Scottish Government. While I recognise that this is out-with the normal reporting lines for HEI inspections, given the need for assurance that systems and processes are robust in terms of HAI prevention, I would expect that an exception is made in this instance.

I would also expect the Board to timeously develop and implement an action plan in line with normal inspection reporting arrangements. This should also, once agreed with HEI, be shared with the Chief Nursing Officer, who will then directly advise me on all relevant developments.

I will set up an independent external review which will look at the building's design, commissioning and construction, handover and ongoing maintenance, how these matters contribute to effective infection control and any other areas considered necessary by those carrying out the review.

The review will follow the principles outlined in Professor Alison Britton's report which was published in October last year. This means that the chair will be independent and will be the

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principal author in the drafting of the remit and they will be involved in the decision as to how the terms of reference will set.

The Independent Chair will be appointed on the basis of their proven expertise in construction design and knowledge of the health care system and I have asked officials to bring together a short list of potential candidates which I will review.

It is essential that all relevant information is available to the reviewers to ensure that a robust, evidence-based assessment can be provided. It is expected that individuals involved in the design, construction, commissioning and maintenance of the hospital, along those providing healthcare (staff) and relevant expertise will input into the review. Patients and families will also have an opportunity to have their views heard. It will be for those undertaking the independent review to establish where and how the required information is collected.

The review will fully address and investigate all matters it considers relevant. The review's recommendations will be made public and the Scottish Government will inform Parliament of its response to the review recommendations. We must all understand what the issues are, why they have arisen and the recommendations will be taken forward and learning applied across NHS Scotland to ensure our healthcare facilities – existing and future – are fit for purpose and support the delivery of world class health care.

I trust this is helpful, but of course am happy to answer any questions you may have if I can.



**JEANE FREEMAN**