

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr Lewis Macdonald, MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee
T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Email: healthandsport@parliament.scot

11 September 2019

Dear Lewis

I am writing to you today following my update to Parliament on the delay to the opening of the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People, the Department of Clinical Neurosciences and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

You will be aware that I had commissioned two reports – one from KPMG and one from NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) – both of which have been published today.

Through the work of the NSS report we now understand the range of issues which require to be resolved prior to occupation of the building. NHS Lothian accept the recommendations in the report and their action plan has also been published today.

As outlined in my statement to Parliament, children's services will remain on the current site, likely until Autumn 2020, and the Department of Clinical Neurosciences (DCN) is expected to migrate services in Spring 2020.

NHS Lothian have identified some short-term investment options to help upgrade their current facilities, including securing a modular unit which will provide greater resilience to the DCN service, which the Scottish Government will support.

The KPMG report sets out a clear picture of human error and confusion over interpretation of standards and guidance - and missed opportunities to spot and rectify that error. While the report sets out what happened, I now need to establish why there was confusion and why the errors were not identified earlier.

NHS Lothian is currently at level 3 of our performance escalation framework. However given the issues with the new hospital and the number of issues to be rectified, the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Management Board has escalated NHS Lothian to Stage 4 for this project. A Senior Programme Director will be appointed, reporting directly to Scottish Government.

It is important to note that my focus remains on patient safety and I am confident that staff will continue to provide their customary high standard of care while remedial works are taken forward.

I am happy to provide the Committee with additional information and would welcome the opportunity to meet with the members of the Health and Sport Committee to discuss the NSS and KPMG reports in more detail.

The two reports and NHS Lothian's action plan can be accessed here:

- <http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781839601552> - KPMG REPORT
- <http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781839601569> - NSS REPORT
- <http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781839601637> - NHS REPONSE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeane Freeman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JEANE FREEMAN