



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Caroline Gardner
Auditor General
Audit Scotland

Via email only

Health and Sport Committee
T3.40

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 5210

Calls via RNID Typetalk: 18001 0131 348 5224

Email: healthandsport@parliament.scot

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Dear Caroline

Health Hazards in the Healthcare Environment Inquiry

I am writing regarding the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People in Edinburgh. You will be aware from recent events the flagship hospital which was due to open in July this year has been delayed until sometime in Autumn 2020.

Reports suggest the delayed opening is costing NHS Lothian in the region of £1.4 million every month. This is clearly a significant additional cost to the overall health budget.

These challenges have led to the Cabinet Secretary of Health and Sport announcing a public inquiry into safety and well-being issues at the hospital (and Glasgow's Queen Elizabeth University) on 17 September.

The Committee understands consideration of the financial implications of the delay sits most comfortably with the Accounts Commission and Audit Scotland and are interested to know if you are planning to undertake work to investigate financial issues arising.

I have written to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport to make her aware that I am writing to you.

I would be grateful for a response by Friday 1 November.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lewis Macdonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'L'.

Lewis Macdonald

Convener, Health and Sport Committee