



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Lindsay McClure
Associate Director
Medicines Pricing and Supply
NHS National Services 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 Lindsay,

Health and Sport Committee – Supply and Demand for Medicines

Thank you for giving evidence to the Health and Sport Committee as part of its inquiry into the supply and demand for medicines in Scotland. The Committee very much appreciated your time and the information which you provided.

The Committee had a couple of requests for further information.

In your evidence, you spoke of evidence suggesting the UK benefiting from some of the lowest prices in Europe for generic medicines and the Committee would appreciate details of this.

You also provided your views as to why central tendering for medicines in primary care was not preferable to the current system, whereby community pharmacies procure medicines and are reimbursed according to the Scottish Drugs Tariff. When questioned further on this, you suggested “international evidence” suggested this system was still preferable, even though the NHS may be paying community pharmacies more than the drug is worth. The Committee would like to understand this further and would appreciate it if you could provide further detail as to why the current system would be more cost effective for the NHS than central tendering.

Outcomes and value based pricing was mentioned throughout the Committee’s meeting and the Committee would welcome the NHS NSS perspective on whether this should be adopted, how it could be assessed and what would be the main challenges in doing so.

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response to this letter by 26 February 2020 and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lewis Macdonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue underline for the first letter 'L'.

Lewis Macdonald
Convener, Health and Sport Committee