



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Dr David Shackles
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Via email only

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Dear Dr Shackles,

Health and Sport Committee – Inquiry into the Supply and Demand for Medicines

Many thanks for giving evidence to the Committee on 18 February 2020. The Committee appreciates your time and is grateful for the information you supplied.

During discussion of adherence to prescriptions, you spoke of the need to encourage trainees to manage discussions with patients on their prescriptions, but also said there was limited opportunity within the medical curriculum for this. Given the importance you have placed on such discussions, the Committee would welcome further detail as to the role of the Royal College of GPs in ensuring this is an essential element of training of doctors. You also highlighted the relevance of physical reviews of medicines in the context of technology providing means to automatically produce prescriptions. However, the Committee has received a wealth of evidence to suggest systematic reviews of medicines are not happening consistently or comprehensively by prescribers. The Committee would welcome your views on the importance of medicines reviews, why these do not always happen and the role the Royal College of GPs can play in ensuring reviews take place.

During discussions of HEPMA and technology, you stated the importance of ensuring best practice in advances in technology were shared throughout the country. The Committee would welcome your views on the role of the Royal College of GPs in ensuring these advances happen at an appropriate pace.

This information would be most usefully received by 4 March 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