



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Via email only

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Health and Sport Committee  
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Dear Calum

Thank you for giving evidence on 15 September to the Committee as part of our budget inquiry. The Committee appreciate the information you provided and have asked that I write on their behalf to seek further information as well as elaboration in a number of areas. References in this letter are for ease of reference to columns in the [Official Report](#) of the session.

### **Shifting the Balance of Care and set aside budget**

The Committee were interested in your views on shifting the balance of care and in particular your views on releasing beds. Could you indicate to what extent your suggestion (col 29) that you could not operate without fewer beds as a consequence of moving care into the community suggests a narrative requiring ever increasing funding for the health service.

The Committee also noted your comments about single room accommodation (col 28/9) and the need to replace beds elsewhere, and what could be a suggestion from Susan that a focus on set aside budgets is irrelevant (col 30) because you are not operating your set aside budget on the basis of activity levels. Could you comment on whether this is a reflection of a need to utilise all available accommodation to address waiting lists and backlogs or wider thinking around any focus on set aside budgets.

In response to a question on the role of the Health Board in preventative activities you used the example of work on delivering flu jabs. Could you expand on other preventative activities being undertaken by the Board and any activities you have planned or indeed would like to progress.

At col 29, you talked about the need to run services concurrently before resources can be released. Can you expand on this and explain why different ways of delivering services through the pandemic that have reduced pressure on existing resources cannot be continued in order to deliver immediate savings.

At col 32 you referred to planning for the return of universities. Can you provide more detail on how the needs of the student population are factored into your delivery plans.

### **GP costs**

During the earlier session with Greater Glasgow and Clyde there were some exchanges in relation to GP costs (col 21 onwards). That Board also explained processes that they have in place to track expenditure going to general practice.

The Committee recognise the role of the GP within the community assessment centres and hubs during the pandemic. Could you advise whether Lothian have similar arrangements in place regarding support to assessment centres and hubs by GPs and indicate whether this role was undertaken as part of existing contractual requirements as independent contractors and what if any additional payment was made to them for this.

Could you also indicate what monitoring arrangements are in place in relation to GP activity and how these linked to the new GMS contract. In addition could you indicate to what extent the Board monitors outcomes from this work to satisfy itself in relation to value for money?

I look forward to receipt of the above information and it would assist our budget scrutiny if this could be received by 22 October.

Yours sincerely

Lewis Macdonald  
Convener, Health and Sport Committee