



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Dr Martin McKechnie,
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Via email only

Health and Sport Committee
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Dear Dr McKechnie

Thank you for attending the Committee meeting on [26 January](#). The members found your contributions very helpful to their understanding of the Major Trauma Network. The Committee were very interested to hear of the work that is currently operational and are looking forward to seeing the MTN operate at full capacity later in the year. You may recall at the end of the session I indicated that time constraints meant not all questions had been asked. The following are areas the Committee would welcome your views upon.

The STAG report in 2020 shows the crude mortality for trauma patients was 6%, rising to 19% for patients with major trauma. The report also calculates the number of expected survivors against the actual number of survivors, after adjusting for factors such as demographics and Injury Severity Score. The report estimates that for 4 of the last 7 years (2013-2019), the number of actual survivors has been lower than the predicted number of survivors. Can you indicate how reliable this analysis of mortality is and whether we should be concerned by these findings? Can you also update on any analysis that has been undertaken on the factors which may be impeding survival?

The STAG report also stated that 'two hospitals (Wishaw and Hairmyres) were more than 3 standard deviations below the Scottish mean for mortality during 2017-19'. This suggests there may be fundamental problems. The Committee understands these deviations are being investigated and would be grateful for any updates on whether the investigation has been completed and any findings it has produced.

On prevention, the Committee would be interested to hear what factors you think would have the biggest impact on reducing trauma injuries, and details of any work the STN does with other organisations to help prevent trauma injuries?

During the session you said you would write to the Committee with further evidence on the importance of getting patients to a trauma unit within 45 minutes. You were also going to update on what is being done to mitigate against the longer transfer times for the 7% of the population unable to reach a trauma unit within 45 minutes by road. I would welcome these pieces of information.

I'd be grateful for your reply by 1 March.

Yours sincerely

Lewis Macdonald
Convener
Health and Sport Committee