

Minister for Mental Health

Clare Haughey MSP



T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Lewis Macdonald MSP  
Convener, Health and Sport Committee  
Scottish Parliament

19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Lewis,

**Report by Dr Nadine Cossette into mental health needs of patients hospitalised due to COVID-19 – mental health clinicians**

In October last year I wrote to the Committee to share a copy of the report produced by Dr Nadine Cossette, a liaison psychiatrist from the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh, examining mental health needs of patients hospitalised due to COVID-19.

Principal conclusions indicated that the effects of severe COVID often continue after the patient leaves hospital. Approximately one-third of COVID patients admitted to hospital develop serious mental health consequences, including depression, anxiety, PTSD, and cognitive problems. Additionally, complex multifactorial presentations known as 'long COVID' are being recognised as very significant and distressing consequences.

I am pleased to confirm that funding is being awarded to implement one of the central recommendations, a network of dedicated mental health clinicians based in Health Boards that will support people who have been hospitalised due to COVID-19. A total of £4.5 million over three years will be invested through Boards to establish this network of clinicians, supported by a national specialist advisory group to give guidance and supervision. All patients hospitalised due to COVID-19 will be approached for screening over the coming year, and it is anticipated that roughly 3,000 people will benefit from direct treatment.

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG



Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act

I am grateful to all members of the Short Life Working Group, chaired by Dr Nadine Cossette and the Principal Medical Officer Dr Alastair Cook that has developed plans and a detailed service model for this network. Work will continue to implement recommendations relating to digital resources and rehabilitation.

I hope that this is helpful and I will keep the Committee informed as this work develops.

Yours sincerely,

**CLARE HAUGHEY**

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG



Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act