



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Shona Robison MSP,
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Health and Sport Committee
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Dear Cabinet Secretary,

At the start of session 5 the Health and Sport Committee conducted a number of short inquiries that concluded with correspondence to the Scottish Government. The Committee is now reviewing these inquiries and I am writing to seek updates in relevant areas.

Each annexe to this letter relates to a specific short inquiry as follows:

Annexe A – Delayed Discharges

Annexe B – Ageing Population

Annexe C – Social and Community Care Workforce

Annexe D – Recruitment and Retention

Annexe E – Primary Care in Scotland

Annexe F – Targets and Indicators

Annexe G – Obesity

Annexe H – Fertility Treatment

I would be grateful if you could respond to this letter by 4 May 2018.

Yours sincerely

Lewis Macdonald MSP

Convener

Delayed Discharges

In relation to delayed discharges the Committee wrote to you on [5 October 2016](#) and [8 November 2016](#). Responses from you were issued on [17 October 2016](#) and [18 November 2016](#).

Cost of delayed discharge

You advised in your letter of 18 November 2016 that early analysis of the £100m per year Integrated Care Fund suggested just under 20% is being used for preventative and anticipatory care and offered to share this analysis when it was complete. I would be grateful if this could now be shared with the Committee.

Care pathway

In the Committee's letter of 18 November 2016 further details were requested of the innovative approaches to care being undertaken in Highland that you had mentioned in your letter of 17 October 2016. In particular the Committee were interested to hear how these practices are being shared with others and how they operate in relation to rural challenges. I would be grateful if you could now provide the Committee with these details.

In addition to this your letter of 18 November 2016 referred to social care data being collected from local authorities and linked to health data at National Services Scotland (NSS). This work was currently at a developmental stage and due to be tested in pilot partnerships with a view to being rolled out to all partnerships during 2017/18. I would be grateful if you could provide an update on the roll-out of the pilot scheme.

Code 9 delays

In your letter of 17 October you referred to the Consultation on the Scottish Law Commission's Adults With Incapacity (AWI) report, which the Scottish Government undertook on from January to March 2016. You advised that on the basis of the responses, Scottish Government officials were working alongside the Public Guardian and Mental Welfare Commission to develop models for change with the intention that proposals would be subject to further public consultation during 2017. We would be grateful for an update on what stage the public consultation is at and when legislation can be expected.

You also referred to a six month pilot in two Edinburgh hospitals regarding AWI legislation and processes. We would also be grateful for an update on this pilot, and any details of it being rolled out across the country.

Finally following your commitment in 2015 to completely eradicate delayed discharges we would welcome details of what progress the Scottish Government is making towards achieving this aim.

Ageing Population

In relation to ageing population the Committee wrote to you on [20 July 2016](#). You responded on [3 August 2016](#) and [23 August 2016](#).

In your letter dated 23 August 2016 you advised the Change Fund had been replaced by the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) and Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) would be reporting on the use and impact of the ICF through the Annual Performance Reports. You also noted you had asked all HSCPs to provide an overview of the ICF funding during its first year and offered to share any findings with the Committee. I would be grateful if these findings could be forwarded to us, along with an indication of any next steps.

Social and Community Care Workforce

Following evidence sessions on the social and community care workforce the Committee wrote to you on [26 October 2016](#) and [18 January 2017](#). You responded on [1 December 2016](#) and [17 February 2017](#).

Training and Development

The Committee previously noted the development of a community Clinical Healthcare Support Worker being undertaken between NES and NHS Lothian. You advised in February this work was still ongoing. We would be grateful for an update on the establishment of this role.

Collective Bargaining

The Committee's letter dated 18 January 2017 asked whether the Scottish Government was considering initiating discussions with trade unions on collective bargaining. We would be grateful if you could advise the current position.

Value and role of the workforce

In your letter dated 1 December 2016 you advised the consultation on National Care Standards (due to close on 22 January 2017) highlighted the importance that "*I am confident in the people who support and care for me*" is in standard 3. Following consultation partners were to consider what additional guidance might be required to ensure this standard is a reality for everyone who uses services. Can you advise the outcome of the consultation and whether new guidance has been produced?

In your letter dated 17 February 2017 you advised research was being undertaken on the public understanding of the social services sector. A report has now been published and we would be grateful if you could advise how outcomes and issues raised in the report will be taken forward.

You noted this research would also be of interest to a wide range of stakeholders with the Social Work Services Strategic Forum likely to discuss the findings. It was expected they would consider what further action might be useful and what activity they may wish to undertake collaboratively to improve public understanding of the sector. We would be grateful if you could advise when such discussions occurred and what the next steps will be.

Workforce planning and Brexit

In the Committee's letter dated 18 January 2017 they asked to be kept updated on work being undertaken to improve the Scottish Government's understanding of the number of EU citizens working in social services in Scotland. Are you able to provide an update on this work?

Evaluation of Health and Social Care Partnerships

In your letter dated 17 February 2017 you noted HIS was testing and evaluating Buutzorg, a care delivery model for community care established in the Netherlands. We would be grateful for an update on this work and any outcomes.

Procurement

You also advised in your letter dated 17 February 2017 that Scottish Ministers would be required to produce a report providing an overview of the procurement activity in Scotland based on the information contained in public bodies' annual reports. Can you advise the status of this report?

Reform of the National Care Home Contract

The Committee were advised negotiations were underway to populate the care cost calculator and agree related fee rates. We would welcome an update on whether this has been completed and the results.

Recruitment and Retention

In relation to recruitment and retention the Committee wrote to you on [20 July 2016](#) and [9 December 2016](#). You responded on [23 August 2016](#) and [12 January 2016](#). As part of the inquiry the Committee also wrote to NHS Education for Scotland on [20 July 2016](#). They responded on [31 August 2016](#).

In your letter dated 12 January 2016 a number of answers advised consideration of the issue highlighted by the Committee would form part of an upcoming National Health and Social Care Workforce Plan. Now that parts 1 and 2 of this plan have been published we would be grateful for an update on the following:

- Whether there would be advantages to a degree of national direction to training places for non-controlled subjects.
- How training places are being modified to take account of the shift in care envisaged by the National Clinical Strategy.
- Whether any work has been undertaken to widen access to all health professions to encourage greater Scottish uptake of places.
- What discussions have taken place between the Scottish Government, ISD Scotland and the SSSC, and what subsequent work has been carried out in relation to the age profile of staff working in rural communities.

In your letter dated 23 August 2016 you made reference to three projects:

GP Recruitment and Retention Fund - You provided a summary of each project, the majority of which were in an early stage of development.

Scottish Rural Medicine Collaborative – You advised the Scottish Government was working with NES and National Services Scotland to explore how this work could be supported and taken forward.

Being Here – This initiative was set to test new approaches to sustainable healthcare in remote and rural areas of Scotland. You advised a number of appointments had been made resulting in some stability in the test site (Argyll and Bute).

We would welcome an update on each of these projects along with details of any roll outs that have occurred.

Barriers to working in a remote or rural area

You noted in your letter dated 12 January 2016 the Scottish Government were working to establish a Practice Sustainability Group to oversee the recommendations of the Sustainability Short Life Working Group. We would welcome an update on progress with implementation of the recommendations.

Temporary Staff

You advised a workaround establishing Regional NHS Staff Banks was progressing and the work plan for 2017/18 was being developed. This would include projects to tackle use of non-clinical agency staff and an initial exploration of the use of medical locums in Primary Care. We would be grateful for an update on these projects. We

would also welcome details of the levels and costs of agency staff currently being used.

Training

In relation to proposals to assist local authorities release social workers to undertake further studies you advised you had asked COSLA to consider the issue with Social Work Scotland. We would welcome an update on this work and how many social workers have so far benefited.

Investment of £450,000 over three years was announced in 2015 to encourage former nurses and midwives back into the profession. Can you provide an update on the current uptake of this scheme and whether the scheme is to be extended.

The ScotGEM programme is due its first intake in this academic year. Can you advise whether all places have been filled?

Primary Care in Scotland

Following the inquiry into Primary Care in Scotland the Committee wrote to you on [9 November 2016](#) and [18 January 2017](#). You responded to the Committee on [17 October 2016](#) following oral evidence and then responded to the Committee's letters on [14 December 2016](#) and [2 February 2017](#).

Evaluation of Primary Care Transformation Fund projects and key themes emerging

In your letter dated 17 October 2016 you noted this was a developing area of work with further detail being sought from partners on local work. Your letter of 14 December 2016 further referenced this fund in relation to savings on preventative spend and how it complimented the long-term evaluation of Primary Care Transformation. You advised the investment to support test of change was time limited until 2017/18, with the final round of funding from April 2017.

We would welcome an update on the fund and how this has helped demonstrate the effectiveness of preventative approaches.

GP recruitment and numbers

You advised in your letters of both October and December 2016 that work was being done to attract returners to the profession using the GP Recruitment and Retention fund. We would welcome an update on how the fund continued to be used in innovative ways and whether more is being done to increase the reported 18 GP returners.

Your letter of 14 December 2016 advised of work being undertaken to simplify and standardise the application process for prospective GPs. Phase 2 was to further develop this by the addition of an enhanced IT-based solution to the existing General Practitioner Computer Database, including the likelihood of expanding to include others such as the current Optometry database. We would be grateful for an update on Phase 2 of this work including details of other contractor groups that have been included.

We would also welcome an update on the Scottish Government's work with ISD and NSS to ensure clusters and the wider primary care system are provided with accurate and timely data.

Health Inequality

The Scottish Government committed to increasing the number of community link workers in disadvantaged areas to 250 over 5 years (letter dated 14 December). Link worker pilot programmes were funded to take place in Dundee and Glasgow. We would be grateful for an update on the two pilot programmes including details of the number now employed and an indication of whether the Scottish Government is on track to meet the committed number of 250 link workers.

University admissions

You advised in your letter dated 2 February 2017 the Scottish Government were in the process of working with Universities and FE colleges to see where support could be given to accelerate work in widening access via a gateway programme. Feedback

had been requested on the plans from the Commission for Widening Access. We would welcome details of the feedback provided and any outcomes from this work.

Information and sharing best practice

In relation to the Primary Care Digital Services Fund you advised in your letter dated 2 February 2017 the Change Manager was working with Boards to develop a monitoring process that reflects their baseline starting points and chosen priorities. Can you advise if this monitoring process is now fully developed and if so provide details of the process together with details of outcomes achieved.

Patient perspective

In your letter dated 2 February 2017 you also provided details of a project in Elgin holding one to one interviews with a group of patients who frequently used Elgin Community practice. This project was coming to an end and the Scottish Government were considering how to best share the learning for the project. We would be pleased to receive details of how this best practice was shared and details of any roll out together with detail of any further similar projects.

Pharmacy

£16.2m investment was provided by the Scottish Government for pharmacists with advanced clinical skills through the Primary Care Fund. This investment was to deliver 140 wte pharmacist posts by 31 March 2018. We would be grateful if you can confirm this has been fully delivered.

Targets

At the beginning of the Parliamentary session the Committee agreed to carry out a short inquiry into targets. On 8 June 2016, prior to this inquiry beginning, the Scottish Government announced a review of targets and the establishment of an expert group to lead the review.

The Committee took evidence from Sir Harry Burns, Chair of the Target and Indicators Review on [15 November 2016](#) and again on [5 December 2017](#) following the publication of the Review Group's final [report](#).

The Committee also took evidence from you on [9 January 2018](#).

During the evidence session on the 9 January 2018 Geoff Huggins, Director for Health and Social Care Integration at the Scottish Government advised work was ongoing to develop a "next-stage process" and that the Scottish Government "want to build in what we have learned from the integration authorities' experience of the first 12 months of working in that different way". We would welcome an update on how this work is progressing and the Scottish Government's plans for its next steps.

Obesity

The Committee wrote to the Minister for Public Health on [15 July 2016](#) and on [23 January 2017](#), at the beginning and end of the inquiry. The Minister responded on [12 August 2016](#) and [17 February 2017](#).

In your letter dated 17 February you advised it was your intention to publish a new diet and obesity strategy in 2017. We note an open consultation document was launched in October with a view this would inform the development of the final strategy. We would be grateful if you could provide an update on when the final strategy will be published.

Fertility Treatment

The Committee received a letter from the Minister for Public Health on 22 June 2016 advising the Scottish Government was accepting all but one of the National Infertility Group's report recommendations.

The Committee responded to the Minister on [15 July 2016](#) seeking some further information on the specific issues raised by the National Infertility Group Report and assurances regarding the future funding of fertility services. The Minister for Public Health and Sport responded on [29 August 2016](#) and [23 March 2017](#).

The Minister advised the Scottish Governments intention was to still meet the 12 month waiting time standard for IVF treatment and discussions would be ongoing as to whether additional funds would be required. We would be grateful if you could advise whether there has been a need for any additional funding to meet waiting times.