

# **PE2125/B: End the pause on new NHS building projects and prioritise capital funding for primary care buildings**

## **Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care written submission, 20 March 2025**

I write to provide the further detail requested by the Committee, following its consideration of the above noted petition.

Work to develop a whole system NHS infrastructure plan is being progressed in two key stages.

The first stage – short-term priorities – is in progress and will inform how immediate investment is directed to priority maintenance and equipment replacement.

The next step will be consideration of longer-term investment priorities across the health estate. It is as part of this phase that an investment strategy for primary care will be developed, considering both priorities across the primary care estate and delivery model. This will include consideration of whether innovative finance models could support a wider programme of work across health.

While there is also a commitment to review the Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan pipeline, until this NHS whole-system planning work is complete – considering need across the whole of the NHS estate – I cannot confirm the scale or value of any such primary care investment programme. I will update the Committee on output of that work, which I expect in the later part of this year.

On the matter of wider support for primary care, the 2025-26 Scottish Budget includes over £2.2bn in resource funding for primary care, aiming to improve capacity, patient access, and reduce demand on acute services. This investment will support essential reforms across all primary care disciplines. At least 10% of the £100m reform fund will be allocated to enhancing General Practice services, with £10.5m currently earmarked. This funding will enable GPs to focus on frailty and other population health issues, improving care within local communities.

These measures will drive lasting change for patients over the next 18 months, with plans to scale and replicate them in future budgets.

Sustainable NHS reform requires shifting more care to primary and community settings, with a focus on better outcomes for individuals. The increased funding will ensure that GPs and services in the community, have the resources to play a greater role in the health system.

Yours sincerely

**NEIL GRAY**