



Karen Adam MSP

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Karen,

As Scotland's leading HIV charities, we are writing to thank you for the work undertaken by the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee throughout 2024.

As you know, our 2030 goal to end new cases of HIV in Scotland is fast approaching and we will not succeed in meeting this ambition without bold action to increase HIV testing, expand access to prevention and tackle HIV stigma. We were therefore pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to your Committee's inquiry on HIV in Scotland and raise some of these issues with Committee members.

The Committee's work has already had a tangible impact on Scotland's route to 2030, notably contributing to the early publication of the Scottish Government's long-awaited HIV Transmission Elimination Delivery Plan in March 2024. We are also pleased that the Scottish Government has adopted one of the key recommendations from the inquiry and have now confirmed nearly £100k of funding to support HIV awareness education for the health and social care workforce. We hope that this work – led by Waverley Care in collaboration with sector partners – will build on the success of Scotland's landmark HIV anti-stigma campaign and provide a strong foundation for routine workforce HIV awareness training.

With five years left to 2030, the clock is ticking on our shared goal. Scotland could be the first country in the world to eliminate new transmissions of HIV, however our progress is in jeopardy without sustained action to find and support everyone living with undiagnosed HIV and re-engage people living with HIV who are 'lost to care'.

Success in 2030 would mark the first time we have stopped the onward transmission of any virus without a vaccine or a cure. This would change countless lives and cement Scotland's position as a world leader in public health and prevention. We were pleased that the Committee has committed to revisiting this topic in 2025 and we would be delighted to meet with you to discuss how this work can be taken forward. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Eagleson
Head of Scotland Services
Terrence Higgins Trust

Grant Sugden
Chief Executive
Waverley Care