



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee

26 November 2024

Dear Kenneth,

Scrutiny of SPCB supported bodies

I am writing further to your letter of 13 November in which you invite my Committee to share its views on how it intends to take forward scrutiny of the newly created Patient Safety Commissioner, particularly in relation to its budget, annual accounts and strategic plan.

I should firstly note that, at time of writing, Scotland's first Patient Safety Commissioner has yet to be formally appointed. Before undertaking any initial scrutiny, the Committee would be keen to allow sufficient time for the Patient Safety Commissioner, once appointed, to establish their office and to prepare a strategic plan.

Furthermore, in the short term, the Committee's work programme is fully committed with scrutiny of a number of major pieces of legislation.

With these considerations in mind, the Committee would not anticipate undertaking initial scrutiny of Scotland's Patient Safety Commissioner until the latter half of next year.

Thereafter, ongoing scrutiny of the Patient Safety Commissioner is likely to coincide with the publication of annual accounts and the publication of any new strategic plan, the period of which must not exceed 4 years. At the end of the current parliamentary session, the Committee would also intend to highlight the Patient Safety Commissioner as a subject for potential ongoing scrutiny by successor committees in its Legacy Report.

I hope this letter provides useful background for your planned evidence session with the SPCB in January 2025.

Contact: Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.
Email HSCS.Committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Haughey MSP
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee