



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Dear Convener,

### **Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill**

I am writing further to your letter of 8 February 2022 inviting the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to contribute any evidence it has gathered which may be relevant to your Committee's scrutiny of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill.

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee recently took evidence on the provisional Common Framework on Public Health Protection and Health Security.

The explanatory cover page accompanying this provisional Common Framework describes its purpose as being: "to ensure continued cooperation on serious cross-border threats to health within the UK following the end of the Transition Period and a robust UK-wide regime on public health protection and health security".

This Common Framework is underpinned by the Health Security (EU Exit) Regulations 2021 which, as explained by the explanatory cover page, "repeal retained EU law on health and security which no longer operates effectively in the UK, and introduce a standalone regime which requires the four nations to coordinate surveillance, prevention and control of serious cross-border threats to health". At its meeting on 23 March 2021, the Committee's predecessor took evidence on these regulations and agreed it was content with a Scottish Government proposal to give consent to the UK Government to legislate via these regulations using the powers under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

Given the stated purpose of this Common Framework, its operation is clearly intended to underpin current and future cross-border cooperation within the UK in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, I thought it would be useful to share with you the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's scrutiny of this provisional Common Framework and the

evidence it has gathered on it as being potentially of relevance to your Committee's scrutiny of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill.

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee issued a [call for written evidence](#) on the provisional Common Framework which ran from 17 November to 6 December 2021 and received [one response](#).

[On 21 December 2021](#), the Committee took oral evidence on the provisional Common Framework from Nick Phin, Clinical Director and Director of Public Health Protection at Public Health Scotland.

The Committee subsequently took oral evidence on the provisional Common Framework from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care [on 18 January 2022](#).

At time of writing, the Committee has yet to agree a formal response to the Scottish Government on this Common Framework pending completion of scrutiny of a number of other provisional common frameworks within its remit.

In the meantime, I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Martin MSP  
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee