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Maree Todd MSP
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5 September 2024

Dear Clare

CHANGING PLACES TOILETS FUND - UPDATE

I know how important it is for partners to understand the impacts of any budget changes and for us to be open with stakeholders. That is why I am writing to you to provide an update on Changing Places Toilets funding.

We are committed to investing in Changing Places Toilets (CPT) in order to increase the number of these facilities across the country and to support mobile CPT to allow people easier access to events and outdoor venues.

As you will be aware, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government's statement to Parliament on 3 September outlined the challenging financial situation faced by the Scottish Government following the UK Chancellor's July statement. She confirmed that spending controls are in place to make sure the entire SG budget is being managed prudently. These additional controls set out that any activity undertaken, or commitment made, that generates expenditure in 2024-25 must only proceed if it is truly essential and unavoidable.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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“Unavoidable” means if the Scottish Government would otherwise breach its legal obligations, or fail to provide essential support to emergency situations, or cause significant economic damage across Scotland. The scale of the savings required means that these exceptional measures are being applied across the whole Government, with all policy areas having to think about what this means for them.

The Cabinet Secretary’s letter to the Finance and Public Administration Committee provided further detail on the impact this will have on the mental health budget – a reduction of £18.8 million in 2024-25. This means that whilst I had set out the intention to make CPT funding available across financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26, unfortunately we are no longer able to launch the fund in the current financial year. Instead, funding will be reprofiled into future years.

I understand how important Changing Places Toilets are for individuals with complex needs, their carers and their families, and I appreciate your interest in this work. I remain committed to funding an increase in the numbers of CPTs across Scotland and we are continuing preparatory work on the Fund.

This letter is copied to the Equality, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Maree Todd MSP

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