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Clare Haughey  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

05 February 2024

Dear Ms Haughey,

## **INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO THE DELIVERY OF FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – PROGRESS UPDATE**

As you are aware the final report of the Independent Review into the delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services (“Barron review”) chaired by Derek Barron, Director of Care at Erskine was published in February 2021. The report made 67 recommendations under 6 separate themes to improve quality and delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services.

The Scottish Government welcomed this report and published their response in October 2021, committing to a collaborative and inclusive approach to inform future reforms and to working with partners to take forward recommendations.

I am writing to update the Committee that Scottish Government have now published a [Progress update](#) to this report. The report aims to provide an update on the progress towards delivering the recommendations from the Barron Review thus far and highlights positive work that has taken place across Scottish Government. The report illustrates the commitment of the Scottish Government to addressing the issues raised by the Barron Review.

### **Forensic Governance Advisory Group**

In my letter dated 07 August 2024 I provided you with an update on plans to improve strategic planning and governance of Forensic Mental Health Services and my thoughts on next steps. I committed to providing you with regular updates and I can now confirm that a Forensic Governance Advisory Group has been established, chaired by Ms Esther Robertson and supported by Mr James Cannon and Dr Ian Dewar.

The group are currently engaging with relevant clinical professions, key stakeholders and those with lived experience to help inform their proposed outcomes. The group will run for 6 months until April 2025 and will produce key outputs as identified within the Terms of Reference. All documents relating to the group can be accessed via their dedicated website - [Forensic Governance Advisory Group - gov.scot](#).

I hope that this is a helpful update for the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maree Todd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Maree Todd MSP**

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

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