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Clare Haughey MSP – Convenor Health, Social Care and Sport Committee The Scottish Parliament

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21 February 2025

Dear Clare,

AUDIOLOGY IN SCOTLAND – IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF AUDIOLOGY IN SCOTLAND

I am writing following my letter of 23 September 2024 with an update on work which has been underway to support improvements to audiology services across Scotland.

In my previous letter I highlighted that audiology is now being considered as a clinical priority area within the NHS in Scotland and that improvement work was being progressed through the National Planning and Delivery Board, and Strategic Planning Board structures under the leadership of the Chief Operating Officer - NHS Scotland. I committed to providing a further update to the Committee in January 2025, by which stage I had hoped to be in a position to provide a substantial update on progress that has been made with this work.

Significant work has been undertaken to deliver against the recommendations made by the Independent Review and I am grateful to wider stakeholders from the NHS and from the third sector who have been involved in this. It had been my intention to share a detailed progress report with the Committee in January 2025. However it has taken longer than anticipated to finalise the content of this report and unfortunately it is not yet ready to share as intended. I apologise for the delay in this update, and I give my commitment to write to you again in March to provide a copy of this report to members of the Committee.

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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I would like to again express my determination in seeing improvements in audiology services across Scotland, and that the appropriate measures are in place to assure our services are safe and effective for the people of Scotland. I am clear that there is a need to continue to work positively and collaboratively to ensure that patients across the country receive the best possible care and treatment.

Yours sincerely

Jenni Minto MSP

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

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