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Claire Haughey MSP  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6RS

**04 March 2025**

Dear Claire,

I am writing to you following the recent publication of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting times on 4 March, covering quarter ending December 2024.

Significant and sustained improvements have been made over the last year and the publication shows that for the first time ever, the standard that 90% of children and young people referred to CAMHS start treatment within 18 weeks was met, with national performance sitting at 90.6%. As I'm sure you will agree, this is a very welcomed improvement compared to 83.3% for the same quarter in the previous year. I would also like to highlight that 11 out of 14 boards met the performance standard this quarter, 10 of which achieved 96% or above.

This is a significant achievement and milestone to have reached, especially as services continue to be under significant operational and financial pressure, and is testament to the hard work of local CAMHS teams across Scotland.

Whilst there is no doubt that this is a considerable achievement, there is still work to be done in order to ensure that we comply with the target date of December 2025 as set out in the Programme for Government. A key element of this commitment was that backlogs would also be cleared and as we continue to support Health Boards to do so, it is important that I point out that it is likely that national performance could drop in future quarters.

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Going forward, in addition to supporting Boards to eliminate backlogs, we will continue to support all Boards to meet the waiting times standard, and ensure everyone in Scotland receives high quality, safe, appropriate and timely healthcare.

I trust that this update is helpful for the Committee.



**MAREE TODD**

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