

**Minister for Public Health, Women's  
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Clare Haughey MSP  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Via email:  
[hscs.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:hscs.committee@parliament.scot)

3 August 2023

Dear Clare,

**DISCOVERING MEANING, PURPOSE AND HOPE  
THROUGH PERSON CENTRED WELL-BEING AND SPIRITUAL CARE:  
A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

I am writing to inform the Committee of a new national framework for the delivery of spiritual care within health and social care settings.

The purpose of the framework is to support both health and social care providers to consider, and build on the many opportunities and excellent practice which currently exist in the provision and delivery of spiritual care across Scotland.

**Background:**

The Scottish Government set up a National Programme Board which established Expert Working Groups on key topics within spiritual care. Through the expertise of those involved, the framework and specific recommendations were developed.

With the launch of this national framework, the Scottish Government and those involved in its creation have:

- articulated shared, national priorities for the next five years;
- shared best practice;
- set out a pathway for improving services equitably across Scotland over the coming years;
- set out our ambition to be a world leader in spiritual care delivery.

This person-centred approach continues the trajectory of the delivery of spiritual care in Scotland for nearly 20 years. Person-centred spiritual care is consistent with, and supports, the approaches, attitudes and ethos of the Healthcare Quality Strategy for NHS Scotland and Realistic Medicine.

The delivery of this framework is interdependent with a range of other policies and strategies. This framework cannot stand alone; instead, it complements, links to, and supports the broader health and social care aims of the Scottish Government.

The framework reflects the considerable developments resulting from the increased professionalism in spiritual care over the last twenty years and firmly establishes the role of spiritual care as an integral part of health and social care provision.

The framework is featured on the Scottish Government website. A communication to announce its publication will be sent to NHS Boards, Integration Authorities and relevant stakeholders to update them of the framework which is attached.

The Framework can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781805258858>

I trust this information is helpful and will be positively received by the Committee.

Kind regards

**Jenni Minto MSP**  
**Minister for Public Health and Women's Health**