



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Caroline Lamb  
Chief Executive, NHS Scotland and  
Director-General for Health and Social  
Care

**Public Audit Committee**  
Room T3.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Direct Tel: (0131) 348 5186

Email:

[publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot)

By email only

8 November 2022

Dear Caroline

### **NHS in Scotland 2021**

Thank you for your letters of 13 May 2022 and 14 July 2022. At its meeting on 22 September 2022, the Committee had the opportunity to consider your most recent correspondence and agreed to write to you again to seek additional information.

### **Long Covid**

The Committee notes the confirmation, in your letter of 13 May 2020, that long Covid is not currently being considered separately for inclusion in the Clinical Prioritisation Framework. The Committee continues to share the view of the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) that given the significance of long Covid, patients “should have a clear understanding of the services that they can access” so that their expectations about the treatment options that can be chosen can be managed.

**The Committee requests an update on the progress of the nine studies that are being undertaken to form a clinical knowledge base for long Covid, as well as information on how the Scottish Government is going to prioritise patients’ rehabilitation and ensure that they have a clear understanding of the services that they can access.**

**The Committee also asks for information on the Scottish Government's oversight arrangements for each Health Boards strategy and investment levels for long Covid rehabilitation.**

### **National Leadership Development Programme**

The Committee was pleased to note that the National Leadership Development Programme would be formally launched in August 2022, with regional roadshows taking place to raise awareness across Scotland.

**The Committee asks for confirmation that the launch of the National Leadership Development Programme went ahead as planned and seeks an update on the learning that was gained from the roadshows that were scheduled to take place across Scotland to raise awareness.**

### **Statistics on Clinical Prioritisation**

The Committee noted that your letter of 13 May stated that Public Health Scotland planned to publish statistics on Clinical Prioritisation in late summer.

**The Committee asks for confirmation that this has been actioned, and for a copy of the statistics.**

### **Succession planning for Executive board roles**

The Committee was concerned to note that your letter of 13 May states that there is currently no national succession planning process for Executive board roles but most boards will have their own internal succession plan in place.

**The Committee asks what assurance you have sought that most boards do have their own internal succession plans in place?**

**In recognition of the important role that boards play in the effective governance of an organisation, the Committee asks if the Scottish Government's Public Bodies Unit has been asked to identify and provide support to those boards who do not have a succession plan in place?**

### **Primary care data**

The Committee was interested to hear of the establishment of the Primary Care Data and Intelligence oversight group, chaired by Sir Lewis Ritchie to ensure that advances in the use of technology in primary care are maintained and developed further.

**The Committee seeks further information on the work and expected life span of this group.**

## **Delivery Framework for Health and Social Care**

Your letter of 14 July 2022 states that the Scottish Government intended to publish a Delivery Framework for Health and Social Care in September 2022.

**The Committee asks whether this has happened as planned and asks to be provided with a copy of the framework.**

I would be grateful if you could provide a response to this letter by **6 December 2022**.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Leonard MSP  
Convener**