



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
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By email only

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26 June 2023

Dear Caroline,

NHS in Scotland 2022

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2023, providing the additional information requested by the Committee during the evidence session on 4 May. At its meeting on 22 June 2023, the Committee had the opportunity to consider your correspondence and agreed to write to you to seek further detail on some areas of your submission.

National Treatment Centres

The Committee requested information on original and expected timescales for the opening of all National Treatment Centres (NTCs), as well as initial budgets, spending to date and projected spend for all NTCs. We note that this information has been provided for NTCs that have been completed or are in construction, including NTC Fife, NTC Highland, NTC Forth Valley, Golden Jubilee – Eye Centre (Phase 1) and Golden Jubilee – Phase 2.

The Committee requests detail on the progress to date for all remaining NTCs, including current projected costs and opening dates.

Scottish students studying medicine, dentistry and pharmacy, and completion rates

The Committee was concerned to note that no students entered pre-clinical dentistry during the academic year 2021-22. While we understand dental schools closed during the pandemic due to the unique impact of Covid-19 on the safety of dental procedures, the Committee is concerned about the implications this may have on the future dentistry workforce in Scotland.

The Committee asks what work the Scottish Government has undertaken to assess the impact of closing dental schools during the Covid-19 pandemic on the future workforce, and any action that is being taken to prevent any possible future workforce shortages.

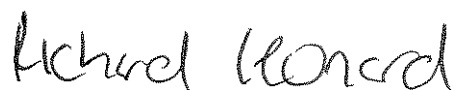
GP numbers – the 800 recruitment commitment

During the evidence session on 4 May, the Committee asked how many of the 800 GPs the Scottish Government has committed to recruit either were or would be working full time or part time. Your letter states that “on average there is a 0.77 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) for every GP by Headcount” and that you “see this a positive, as it keeps GPs in practice that might otherwise leave the profession.”

The Committee seeks a trend analysis in relation to the WTE figure for GPs working part-time to establish how the 0.77 WTE figure reported in 2022 compares to previous years.

I would be grateful if you could provide a response to this letter by **28 July 2023**.

Yours sincerely,



**Richard Leonard MSP
Convener**