

# Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

## 10th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Tuesday, 21 March 2023

### NHS Boards Scrutiny

#### Note by the clerk

#### Background

1. At its meeting on 17 January 2023, the Committee agreed to invite a series of frontline NHS boards to give evidence on their performance, financial sustainability and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as key issues related to workplace culture and workforce.
2. For the purposes of this exercise, frontline NHS boards were determined as comprising Scotland's 14 territorial boards as well as the Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS24, the Golden Jubilee Hospital and the State Hospital.
3. For each evidence session, it was agreed that a representative of three frontline boards would be invited to make up a single panel of witnesses and that these evidence sessions would be scheduled as and when other work programme commitments allow.

#### Today's meeting

4. At today's meeting, the Committee will commence taking evidence from frontline NHS boards with a panel comprising one representative each of:
  - NHS Ayrshire and Arran
  - NHS Borders
  - NHS Forth Valley
5. This session and future sessions with other frontline NHS Boards will have a focus on scrutinising performance against NHS recovery plans as well as medium term financial planning, workforce planning (both at board and national level) and any specific current performance issues.
6. The [NHS board escalation framework](#), most recently updated in November 2022, reports that "There are currently six health boards in Scotland who have been escalated to Stage 3 or above within the framework". Stage 3 is described as "the stage at which boards are considered to require a higher level of support and oversight from Scottish Government and other senior external support". The six boards in question are:

- NHS Ayrshire and Arran
  - NHS Borders
  - NHS Forth Valley
  - NHS Highland
  - NHS Lothian
  - NHS Tayside.
7. On 23 February 2023, Audit Scotland published its [NHS in Scotland 2022 report](#) which provides an assessment of progress in the first year of the Scottish Government's NHS Recovery Plan 2021-2026.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**16 March 2023**