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Dear Convener

## **Anne's Law and Health and Social Care Standards – Publication of Consultation Analysis**

I am writing to advise you that the Scottish Government will publish the independent analysis of the consultations on Anne's Law and Strengthening the Health and Social Care Standards tomorrow (Wednesday 2 March) at 2.30 pm. The publication will be available on the Scottish Government website via the following links:

Main analysis: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781804350195>

Easy read version: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781804351093>

As well as the main analysis and the easy read version of this, a BSL version will also be made available on the Scottish Government website at the same time, with an audio version to follow shortly afterwards.

More than 400 written responses were received to the two-part consultation on Anne's Law and strengthening the Health and Social Care standards. All responses were provided to the independent contractor for analysis.

Overall, I am pleased to update that there was overwhelming support for the proposal to ensure that adults living in care homes should have a legal right to visits from loved ones. The consultation also found widespread support for plans to strengthen the Health and Social Care Standards to help care home residents to maintain connections with family and friends while Anne's Law is put in place.

The consultations represent an important stage in the development and adoption of proposals for Anne's Law. We will continue to engage with a wide range of people, including those who live in care homes and their loved ones, in taking forward the proposals. In the meantime, it is critical that we ensure that people living in care homes continue to be supported to connect with their loved ones. The Scottish Government is already working

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closely with care home providers to promote the aims of Anne's Law by upholding current guidance, which states that visiting should be supported even during outbreaks, unless in truly exceptional circumstances.

A full summary of findings is set out in the analysis within the Executive Summary.

Scottish Ministers will now reflect on the views expressed through consultation fully before we respond as a Government.

I look forward to working with you and the Committee as we move into the next stages of this work.

**KEVIN STEWART**

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