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Convener of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

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20 March 2023

Dear Ms Martin,

First Annual Report on the operation of the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Act 2021 (the FMS Act)

The FMS Act places a statutory duty on Public Health Scotland (PHS) to produce an annual report on the operation of the Act within two months of the end of the reporting period. The reporting period starts from the date the Act commenced (1 April 2022), which means that the first annual report (covering the period to 31 March 2023), should be published no later than 31 May 2023.

A PHS letter to the Committee dated 7 December 2022 advised that there have been significant challenges with the development and deployment of the new national clinical IT system (Cellma). It is now clear that sufficiently complete and robust data for the first year (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023) will not be available from Cellma. Therefore, PHS plans to publish a limited report by the statutory deadline of 31 May 2023, rather than delay as considered previously.

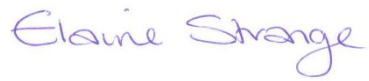
The report will provide narrative on progress with the operation of the Act. With the agreement of NHS Boards, the report will also include a small number of high-level national estimates from a Scottish Government performance reporting framework, and some high-level indicators of NHS 24 and NHS Inform activity. The report will also set out expectations for full reporting in future years, when data for a range of quality indicators will be available from Cellma.

NHS National Services Scotland continues to work closely with the external supplier developing the Cellma system, and with territorial NHS Boards using the system, to resolve the outstanding data issues. PHS will continue to support the process to establish

robust data flows, with a focus now on ensuring monitoring and reporting for the second year of the Act (from 1 April 2023) onwards.

We hope you find this update helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Elaine Strange

Head of Service, Data and Digital Innovation, Public Health Scotland