



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Cc. Cabinet Secretary for Health and  
Social Care

29 March 2023

Dear First Minister,

### **National Care Service (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 Timetable**

On behalf of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, I would firstly like to congratulate you on your election as First Minister.

I am writing principally to seek clarification of the Scottish Government's up-to-date position regarding the planned timetable for completion of Stage 1 scrutiny of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill.

As you will be aware, in response to a previous request from the Minister for Parliamentary Business, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee agreed to defer the Stage 1 deadline for this Bill until 30 June this year. Following agreement of this revised deadline and after initial consideration of a draft Stage 1 report at its meetings on 28 February and 7 March, the Committee also agreed to pause further consideration until mid-May.

The Committee is currently planning to resume consideration at that time with a view to publishing its Stage 1 report prior to a planned Stage 1 debate on the Bill on 28 June.

Before recommencing the Committee's consideration of a draft Stage 1 report, I would be very grateful if you are able to confirm that it remains the Scottish Government's intention that Stage 1 scrutiny of the Bill should be concluded by 30 June.

It has been intimated that you may seek to undertake further engagement with key stakeholders regarding the National Care Service Bill during the course of this summer and I would be similarly grateful for any further detail you are able to provide concerning the planned scope, nature and focus of this engagement.

To enable the Committee to factor your response and any corresponding adjustments that may be required to the Committee's short-term work programme, I would request that you send this to the Committee **no later than Monday, 17 April**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Martin'.

Gillian Martin MSP  
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee