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Clare Haughey MSP
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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Dear Clare,

I am writing to advise the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee that the Scottish Government has recently published revised [NHS Waiting Times Guidance](#), which helps all Health Boards to fairly and consistently manage their Planned Care waiting lists, ensuring that patients are seen as quickly as possible.

The document replaces the previous guidance which was published in 2012. Officials have worked closely with key groups including Health Boards and Public Health Scotland to revise the guidance, with patients providing feedback via a Gathering Views exercise completed by Healthcare Improvement Scotland. All of the revisions made align to our commitment to deliver sustained improvements and reduce waiting times year-on-year through service redesign, as well as enhancing regional and national working.

A Director's Letter has been issued to all Health Board Chief Executives to confirm that the new guidance is now live and sets the expectation that Health Boards should work to implement this. This includes details on the associated implementation arrangements for Health Boards to be able to apply all of the changes made in the revised guidance.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL MATHESON

