

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport
Maree Todd MSP
Ministear airson Cùram Sòisealta, Sunnd Inntinn is
Spòrs
Maree Todd BPA



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000
E: MinisterSCMWS@gov.scot

To: Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

6 March 2024

Dear Convener,

Ministerial Response to the Independent Review of Inspection, Scrutiny and Regulation of Social Care in Scotland (IRISR) recommendations

I wrote to the Committee on 20 September 2023 to inform you that the [IRISR Recommendation Report](#) would be published on the Scottish Government website on 27 September 2023. I have taken time to consider the IRISR's findings and recommendations before setting out my response.

I am writing to let you know that I have informed Parliament by way of GIQ today that I intend to accept all 38 recommendations. The [response](#) is now published on the Scottish Government website.

In accepting the recommendations, I recognise that significant work is already underway that will in part or fully address a number of the recommendations, and this work needs to continue in partnership and at pace. However, a consistent theme throughout the report is that there is a gap between the intention of inspection, scrutiny and regulation and what is often experienced by those who use and work in the social care sector.

To provide a solid basis to deliver the aspirations set out in the IRISR more broadly, two new workstreams focused on recommendations 15 and 33 will shortly commence.

Recommendation 15, a review of the care service types and corresponding definitions as set out in Schedule 12 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, will help ensure a reduction in duplication, support the wider sector by making it easier for staff to work across different services, and enable the consideration of definitions that support the expansion of

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
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the regulatory landscape at a later date. Recommendation 33 is a review of the Health and Social Care Standards. This will help ensure the Standards are firmly embedded in human rights, ethical commissioning and are outcomes focused.

I am very aware of the challenges currently faced by the sector. Implementation of the recommendations will therefore need to be on a phased basis to ensure they can be delivered in the way envisaged by the IRISR and do not put unrealistic pressure on organisations and individuals.

I would reiterate the Scottish Government's absolute commitment to continue to work closely and collaboratively with CoSLA, regulators, providers, stakeholders, and with those who have lived and living experience of social care support and linked services in implementing the recommendations to support our shared ambition of improving outcomes for people.

I will continue to update the Committee periodically on the progress being made to implement the IRISR recommendations.

Kind regards,



MAREE TODD MSP
Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport
Scottish Government

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