

Ministear airson Slàinte Phoblach is Slàinte
Bhoireannach
Jenni Minto BPA

a b c d

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health
Jenni Minto MSP

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

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

hscs.committee@parliament.scot

23 September 2024

Dear Clare,

AUDIOLOGY IN SCOTLAND – IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF AUDIOLOGY IN SCOTLAND

I wanted to take an opportunity to update you on work which has been underway to support improvements to audiology services across Scotland, and set out the steps that the Scottish Government is taking to ensure that these services are safe and effective, so that patients receive the best possible care.

You will be aware that in August 2023 the Independent Review of Audiology in Scotland published its report setting out 55 recommendations for improvements across audiology services. In December 2023, the Scottish Government accepted these recommendations in principle and established an Implementation Delivery Group consisting of a range of stakeholders to support their delivery.

Valuable progress has been made since this Group was established, but the Scottish Government recognises the seriousness of the issues raised in the report, and the need to ensure that the necessary improvements are implemented at pace. It is for that reason that audiology is now being considered as a clinical priority area within the NHS in Scotland.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

<https://www.nhsinform.scot>

a b c de abc a

In practice, this means that the recommendations from the Independent Review will now be delivered through the National Planning and Delivery Board, and Strategic Planning Board structures, with arrangements led by the Chief Operating Officer of NHS Scotland.

I am unwavering in my expectation that audiology services are operating safely, and that appropriate governance is in place. This approach allows alignment with the principles and delivery framework for strategic service review, as well as providing clear oversight from Board Chief Executives, on a 'Once for Scotland' basis to ensure the delivery of the improvements required.

I have discussed the need to progress this work at pace with the Chief Operating Officer and, despite what is a considerable number of recommendations and an extremely challenging financial position, I fully expect that all of the recommendations will be delivered or transitioned into long term workplans by the end of December this year.

With that said, I am giving my commitment to write to you again by early January 2025, to update you on progress with this work.

Finally, I would like to again express my determination to seeing improvements in audiology services across Scotland, and make public my gratitude for the input from stakeholders across the public and third sectors who have supported this work to date. I am clear that there is a need to continue to work positively and collaboratively to ensure that patients across the country receive the best possible care and treatment.

Yours sincerely

Jenni Minto MSP

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

<https://www.nhsinform.scot>

a b c de abc a