

30 July 2024

Clare Haughey MSP
Convenor, Health, Social Care & Sport Committee

Via Email: hscs.committee@parliament.scot

Dear Ms Haughey,

On 24 June 2024, Scottish Government provided the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee with a package of draft Scottish Government amendments to the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. We understand the Committee has issued a fresh Call for Views on this package and COSLA looks forward to providing a full response to this ask in due course.

In the interests of supporting stakeholders to provide evidence, we wished to issue a clarification regarding the Minister's National Care Service Bill package letter on 24 June.

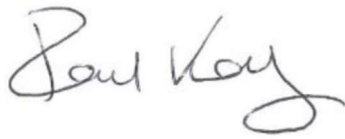
There are a number of areas related to National Care Service reform for which no consensus has been reached between Local Government and Scottish Government. These discussions continue, occurring within the context of a new joint mission agreed between the First Minister and COSLA that the health and social care system adopt an intensive focus to reduce levels of delay from hospital, as well as address the significant pressures in health, social care and social work.

COSLA had requested that Scottish Government reconsider publishing draft amendments for which no consensus has been reached between spheres of Government at this time. We wish to correct an error in the Minister's correspondence and clarify that **COSLA did not request further time to consider amendments related to Anne's Law. COSLA has consistently expressed support for Anne's Law**, recognising that care homes are people's homes, and that they should not be reduced to a clinical setting. COSLA continues to engage constructively with partners on the effective implementation of Anne's Law.

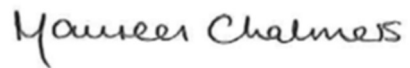
The Minister's letter on 24 June accurately notes that, following discussions between spheres of Government, Scottish Ministers had agreed to not bring forward NCS Bill amendments which would set out an approach to children's and justice social work services. Council Leaders noted with disappointed that Scottish Government did, however, provide an amendment at section 35 (3A) which would set the scope of the National Care Service Board to include children's services and justice social work services where these functions have been included within a local integration scheme. It is our belief that this important matter required further engagement with partners, planning and consideration, and we regret that a legislative approach has been introduced.

COSLA is currently taking the time to fully consider the Scottish Government's package of amendments. We look forward to providing further evidence to the Committee and welcome the opportunity to hear the views of wider partners and stakeholders on the proposals outlined by Scottish Government.

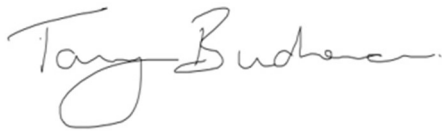
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'P' and 'K'.

Cllr Paul Kelly
Health and Social Care Spokesperson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Chalmers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'M' and 'C'.

Cllr Maureen Chalmers
Community Wellbeing Spokesperson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Buchanan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'T' and 'B'.

Cllr Tony Buchanan
Children and Young People Spokesperson