

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
Tuesday, 21 May 2024  
16th Meeting, 2024 (Session 6)

## Remote and Rural Healthcare Inquiry – Evidence from the Cabinet Secretary

### Note by the clerk

#### Background

1. At today's meeting, the Committee will be holding an evidence session with Neil Gray MSP, Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care.
2. This meeting is the final oral evidence session of the Committee's inquiry into [remote and rural healthcare](#).
3. The Committee agreed that the aim of the inquiry should be to consider the views of remote, rural and island communities, and the workforce, with a view to informing future Scottish Government policy in this area, including the Scottish Government's [Remote and Rural Workforce Recruitment Strategy](#) and the development of the [National Centre for Remote and Rural Health and Care](#).
4. The Committee has undertaken two consultation exercises for this enquiry, one using the [Your Priorities](#) platform and a more targeted call for views using [Citizen Space](#). It has also held two online evidence sessions with patients and people working in primary care as well as undertaking an external visit to Skye.
5. The Committee began its oral evidence taking in November and paused work in the inquiry on 19 December to deal with time sensitive pieces of legislation on the work programme and to arrange further engagement sessions with stakeholders.
6. The Committee has so far taken oral evidence from Scottish Government officials, NES, academics, professional organisations and various other stakeholders.

#### Today's meeting

7. At today's meeting, Members will have an opportunity to put questions to the Cabinet Secretary and supporting officials regarding remote and rural healthcare issues in Scotland.

Clerks to the Committee  
16 May 2024