



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jeane Freeman MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Health and
Sport

Via email only

Health and Sport Committee

T3.40

The Scottish Parliament

Edinburgh

EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 5210

Calls via RNID Tynetalk: 18001 0131 348 5224

Email: healthandsport@parliament.scot

8 October 2019

Dear Cabinet Secretary

The National Health Service (Serious Shortage Protocols) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 (SSI 2019/284)

The Health and Sport Committee considered the Scottish Statutory Instrument listed above at its meeting on 8 October 2019. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government to seek further clarification regarding the instrument.

The policy note details where there is a serious shortage of a prescription only medicine or other drug or appliance ordered on an NHS prescription form, Serious Shortage Protocols (SSP) will allow pharmacists and dispensing doctors to supply a different product or quantity or strength in accordance with the SSP, rather than fulfilling the original prescription.

The Committee is aware of differing definitions of bio-equivalence in other countries (for example, Australia and the U.S). To assist our consideration of this instrument can you please provide further information on the definition and interpretation of bio-equivalence used to inform this Scottish Statutory Instrument.

The Committee is due to consider the instrument again at its next meeting. It would therefore be appreciated if a response could be received by Friday 18 October so it can be issued to Members in advance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lewis Macdonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue underline for the first letter of "Lewis".

Lewis Macdonald
Convener
Health and Sport Committee