



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jeane Freeman MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Health
and Sport

Via email only

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Dear Cabinet Secretary,

The Health and Sport Committee took evidence on 26 November 2019 from the board of NHS Tayside. The official report of the meeting is available [here](#). Several queries arose from this meeting and these are detailed below.

Risk sharing between local authorities and NHS Boards with regard to Integrated Joint Boards

Members had questions for the Board relating to financial sustainability and were interested to know about plans for repayment of brokerage. The Committee was told¹ the Board hopes to become financially solvent at the end of a three-year period, at which point it will require no further assistance from the Scottish Government. However, the Chief Executive, Grant Archibald, did inform the Committee that brokerage would be required within that three-year period. He noted² Tayside was not the only health board in this position and said plans for repayment of funds provided during this time were not yet finalised.

The Committee also inquired as to the situation where an Integrated Joint Board overspends. There are three separate arrangements within Tayside, and Perth and Kinross Integrated Joint Board is alone in receiving additional funding from the local authority for social care, rather than the NHS, when an overspend occurs. The Chief Officer, Gordon Paterson, said³ it hoped to move to risk sharing arrangements akin

¹ Health and Sport Committee. [Official Report](#), 26 November 2019, Col 10

² Health and Sport Committee. [Official Report](#), 26 November 2019, Col 10

³ Health and Sport Committee. [Official Report](#), 26 November 2018, Col 12

to its counterparts in Dundee and Angus where the NHS was responsible for overspend.

The Committee has asked NHS Tayside to provide further information on how it incorporates potential overspend by IJBs into its financial planning. It notes that NHS Boards are provided with additional funds from the Scottish Government to meet issues of overspending in the form of brokerage, but is unclear what funding is, if at all, provided to local authorities who are taking on more of the risk of an overspend of IJBs.

The Committee seeks details of:

- **How many IJBs in Scotland are in the position of Perth and Kinross where the majority of the risk of overspend is borne by the local authority rather than the relevant NHS Board; and**
- **Does the Scottish Government provide additional funding for councils which have met the cost of an IJB overspend?**

Use of locum staff

During the Committee's scrutiny of health boards, the issue of use of locum staff has arisen, most recently when hearing from NHS Tayside. The Chief Executive described this as a "poor use of money, because they are expensive and they are not embedded in the service"⁴. In NHS Highland, the Committee was told⁵ the use of locum staff represented a major source of overspending when discussing its financial status and brokerage.

The Committee seeks the view of the Scottish Government on this use of locums across Scotland, and detail of the action which will be taken by the Scottish Government to address the issue of lack of suitable candidates in medical professions at a national level.

The Committee requests a response by 29 January 2020 and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Lewis Macdonald
Convener, Health and Sport Committee

⁴ Health and Sport Committee. [Official Report](#), 26 November 2019, Col 17

⁵ Health and Sport Committee. [Official Report](#), 3 September 2019, Col 8