



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rose Marie Parr
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Scottish Government

Via email only

Health and Sport Committee
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Dear Rose Marie,

Health and Sport Committee – Supply and Demand for Medicines

Thank you for giving evidence to the Health and Sport Committee on 21 January 2020. The Committee very much appreciated your time and the information you provided.

The Committee had a few requests for further information.

In your responses to questions on data and data sharing, you said an electronic platform allowing the measurement of outcomes across secondary and primary care was the “direction of travel” and “absolutely required”. The Committee would welcome further information of how the Scottish Government is intending to meet the “ambition” of a single patient record which allows for this. You also described HEPMA as “difficult to roll out” and the Committee would welcome further detail on the difficulties in implementing this throughout health boards in Scotland.

Outcomes based pricing was also mentioned and the Committee would welcome further detail on how you think this could be measured and evaluated, and what incentives should be available for industry and health boards. The Committee would also welcome your view on whether the voluntary price regulation scheme for branded drugs could be used to achieve value based pricing, and if so how this would work. The Committee is also interested in what in your view should happen if the outcomes (based on the actual patient experience of taking the medicine), once assessed, differ from the original claims by the drug manufacturer.

During the discussions, the Committee asked about the dispensing of medicines in care homes and about the need for care homes to pay to hold Home Office licences to hold stock, whereas comparable organisations such as hospices do not. The Committee has also written to the Home Office for further details on this, but would welcome the Scottish Government's view on this arrangement.

You also mentioned ongoing Scottish Government work looking at how medication is used in care homes and the Committee would welcome details of this, including intended outcomes and timescales for delivery.

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response to this letter by 26 February 2020 and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Lewis Macdonald
Convener
Health and Sport Committee