



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Health and Sport Committee
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5 February 2020

Dear Elizabeth,

Supply and Demand for Medicines – Committee Meeting 21 January 2020

Many thanks for giving evidence to the Health and Sport Committee of the Scottish Parliament as part of the inquiry into the supply and demand for medicines. The Committee very much appreciated your time and the information you provided.

Following this meeting, the Committee has several requests for further details.

In response to questions as to whether powers under the Health Service Costs (Medical Supplies) Act 2017 had been used, you spoke of the price paid by the NHS in the UK for generic medicines comparing very favourably internationally. The Committee would appreciate further information on this, including why this is the case and details of the reports you referred to which confirm this assessment.

You also undertook to confirm for the Committee whether these powers can be exercised by the other administrations in the UK. The Committee is also interested in the consultation you mentioned on the use of these powers, including development of the consultation and timescales for publication.

Measurement of the outcomes from taking medications was discussed during the meeting, in particular how this can be supported by better data collection and the use of new technologies. 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.

The Committee would appreciate a response by 26 February 2020 and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lewis Macdonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Lewis Macdonald
Convener, Health and Sport Committee