



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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5 February 2020

Dear Jonathan,

### **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.

You helpfully provided detail of how the UK's relationship with the European Medicines Agency will work following 31 January 2020 and stated this meant the UK would no longer be leading in scientific assessment and scientific work. The Committee would welcome further detail on the practical implications of our withdrawal from this role, recognising your comments that there is no "regulatory cliff edge".

The Committee was also interested in the standard of evidence presented to the MHRA and whether the licensing regime be better used to incentivise drug manufacturers to develop drugs which are clinically effective. For example, through a higher standard of evidence required for new drugs?

Outcomes and value based pricing was mentioned throughout the Committee's meeting and the Committee would welcome the MHRA perspective on what 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 and any role for the MHRA in assessing outcomes from a clinical and cost effectiveness perspective.

The Committee is interested in any further plans you have for incorporating “real world” data into your process.

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 underline for the first letter of "Lewis".

Lewis Macdonald  
Convener, Health and Sport Committee