



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

David Coulson  
Assistant Director of Pharmacy  
NHS Tayside

Via email only

Health and Sport Committee  
T3.40

The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 5210

Calls via RNID Typetalk: 18001 0131 348 5224

Email: [healthandsport@parliament.scot](mailto:healthandsport@parliament.scot)

17 February 2020

Dear David,

### **Health and Sport Committee – Supply and Demand for Medicines Inquiry**

Thank you once again for giving evidence to the Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> January. The Committee appreciates your time and the information you have provided.

The Committee has several points it wishes to pursue with you further.

On outcomes, you told the Committee:

“The data is very important for our system, and we understand, from a primary care perspective, that we have very good data sets on the use of medicines. That allows us to have conversations with prescribers in primary care about their practice. We do not have that situation across the whole of secondary care, however. We need a whole-system approach to prescribing rather than a focus on just one part of our profession.”

The Committee is keen to further understand the role you as the Assistant Director of Pharmacy can play in developing a whole system approach in NHS Tayside. The Committee would also appreciate an update on the introduction of HEPMA within NHS Tayside and whether roll out across the health board area is complete or when this is due for completion.

During a discussion of waste, you offered to share a report on how NHS Tayside deals with the issue of waste in care homes and your prescribing strategy and the Committee looks forward to receiving links to both of these in your response to this letter.

The Committee requests a response by 2 March 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