



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Nicola Cotter  
Head of GMC Scotland

Via email only

Health and Sport Committee  
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28 February 2020

Dear Ms. Cotter,

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

The Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into the Supply and Demand for Medicines.

As part of this, the Committee has received information on the importance of communication with patients regarding medicines which are being prescribed to them, both at the point of prescription and, where these take place, during reviews of medicines.

Dr David Shackles of the Royal College of General Practitioners told the Committee on 18 February 2020 that—

“Given the time pressures, patient enablement is difficult to do, but it is something that we need to encourage our trainees to manage. However, the pressure on training means that elements such as patient enablement or motivational interviewing to help our patients are being squeezed out of already busy training schedules.”

The Committee has also heard evidence suggesting GP led reviews of medicines do not always take place. The Committee would welcome further detail of the training provided to doctors in this regard and why such practice is not mandatory. The Committee would also welcome detail of how the realistic medicine agenda has been incorporated into medical training and how doctors are being prepared to involve patients in the decision making process regarding their care.

This information would be most usefully received by 4 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 'L'.

Lewis Macdonald  
Convener, Health and Sport Committee