



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Health and Sport Committee

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Dear Jill,

Thank you for your 25 May response to my letter following your appearance before the Committee. The Committee considered your reply and have asked me to further follow up on a few areas.

Costs

The Committee were both disappointed and surprised you were not able to provide the comparative cost information Julie Carter discussed with us. In response to questions we were told “our costs come out extremely well” and that you have to be “extremely efficient”. Replying to Ivan McKee we were told “we would save lots” if everybody did what you are doing. While we accept the difficulties of providing comparative cost information, the data you could provide does not convince us that you are significantly cheaper than anywhere else and, combined with the lack of comparable data across Boards, we now wonder what the cost basis is for Boards referring their patients to the Golden Jubilee. Given the proposed expansion of services at the hospital we consider the lack of this basic comparative information worrying. Might we be as well served by ‘repatriating’ the Golden Jubilee’s resources to the territorial NHS boards to carry out the same surgery? Can you detail what economic modelling has been undertaken to support the existing model and the case for the expansion?

Referrals from Boards

Thank you for the information about referrals. We understand that you still receive referrals from these boards but can you shed some light on why some patients (as referenced in our previous letter) appear to have been told that their local board is no longer referring to the Golden Jubilee? Could you also advise the method by which the number of procedures that can be referred to the Golden Jubilee Foundation by each Health Board is calculated?

Cancellations

You indicated that last year all your patients were treated within the 12 week target. Could you confirm in relation to referred cases if that relates to the time from local appointment to treatment.

It would be helpful if you could respond by 13 June.

Kind regards,

Neil Findlay MSP
Convener