

Chief Medical Officer Directorate
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

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01 June 2022

Dear Trina Budge, Marion Calder and Susan Smith,

Thank you for your email of 28 April to Sir Gregor Smith, Chief Medical Officer, to highlight your letter to Humza Yousaf MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and Clare Haughey MSP, Minister for Children and Young People. As you will understand, the Chief Medical Officer receives a large volume of correspondence and it is not always possible for him to reply personally to each case. On this occasion, I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

Although the Cass Review is not considering or reviewing clinical services within NHS Scotland, as Scottish Government has previously stated, the review's recommendations will be carefully considered in the context of NHS Scotland services.

The Cass Review's interim report comments on data collection, research and the impact of long waiting times to access gender identity services. All these are matters Scottish Government also takes very seriously and is progressing work on.

I can also assure you that Scottish Government is currently actively engaged with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (as it is with other Scottish Boards) on improving specialist gender identity services, including services for young people.

I understand that you have now received a response to your letter to Ministers addressing the points you raise and offering a meeting with officials to discuss the concerns of your members who are patients of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's Sandyford gender identity service, or have family who are. Unfortunately due to current pressures the Chief Medical Officer is unable to meet with you at this time, but both the CMO and I will ensure we are personally aware of the contents and outcomes of any meetings which take place.

Yours sincerely



Professor Nicola Steedman, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Scotland

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