

FINANCE COMMITTEE

DRAFT BUDGET 2014-15

SUBMISSION FROM NATIONAL WAITING TIMES CENTRE BOARD

1. The Scottish Parliament Finance Committee have requested views by the NHS Boards on the Scottish Government National Performance Framework (NPF) including the points raised in their email of 20 June 2013.

2. The NHS National Waiting Times Centre Board welcomes the opportunity to provide views to the Finance Committee on the following aspects of the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (NPF):

- The continued focus on healthcare associated infection via the two HEAT targets is important, however, it should be recognised that as rates fall, a point will be reached where realistically, further significant improvement will be difficult and other targets will need to be considered.

- The national indicators and purpose targets are an effective means of measuring the performance of government. However, the performance landscape is become increasingly complicated with the challenges of integrating health and social care performance approaches and the development of the Quality Measurement Framework.

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Quality-Measurement-Framework/>

There is a real need for an integrated approach to ensure that the complexity of the performance landscape is not onerous and does not impact on clear, consistent reporting by NHS Boards.

- We agree that Scotland Performs indicators should be utilised to inform policy development and spending decisions. The performance data is important but increasingly there is a requirement for government to perform a full health inequalities impact assessment prior to setting policy/performance targets. In support of this, NHS Boards are required to impact assess their implementation of new HEAT targets.

- There is a need to give assurances to the public that the NHS system is fair and open but in our opinion there is no requirement for Scotland Performs to have a statutory basis. NHS bodies are accountable through a number of governance structures, and in addition, are already held to account for delivery through the Annual Review process. We do not believe further legislation would be necessary.