AUDITOR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (AGS) SECTION 22 REPORT “THE 2013/14 AUDIT OF NHS HIGHLAND: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT”

At the Public Audit Committee meeting on Monday 2 February and afterwards in the private informal meetings with NHS Highland and Highland Council officials, NHS Highland committed to provide additional written information to the Committee.

Specifically NHS Highland committed to provide information about the steps it had taken to address the issues of poor financial management identified in the AGS report.

At the informal private meetings you also confirmed that you would provide further information on patient flow; on the different treatment options available to the ambulance service as well as a copy of the letter referred to by Dr Emma Watson concerning Scottish Medical Schools’ performance in relation to accepting Scottish students.

The Committee also requests confirmation of the date or dates of the NHS Highland Board Development sessions at which the Board members were advised that brokerage might be sought from the Scottish Government as well as copies of any papers or written information provided to Board members to inform that discussion.

I would be grateful if you could provide this information no later than Friday 27 February 2015. Further information on the publication of written submissions is contained in the enclosed policy on the treatment of written evidence by committees. Please take time to read this policy. We welcome written evidence in English, Gaelic or any other language.

Finally I would be grateful if you could extend mine and the Committee’s thanks to all those who attended the afternoon informal meetings. We are grateful for the time they gave us and we found their presentations and discussions helpful in understanding health and social care integration as well as the challenges and opportunities facing NHS Highland in recruiting and retaining medical staff.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk on 0131 348 5390 or by email at pa.committee@scottish.parliament.uk.

Yours sincerely

Paul Martin MSP
Convener