I write to confirm NHS Lothian’s answers to the two questions for which written submission was requested following my appearance at the Health and Sport Committee.

The first questions related to the provision of ongoing professional development for nurses. NHS Lothian has a professional development policy and processes to allow Senior Charge Nurses to identify the learning needs for nurses in their areas, and we have a large number of education and training packages in place for all bands of nursing staff. Compliance with mandatory training is monitored, and it is expected that staff complete the relevant training packages.

The second question relates to how to ensure that patients are treated with dignity and respect. We have a range of mechanism for assuring ourselves about the level of dignity and respect for our patients. At a local level the Senior Charge Nurse is responsible for maintaining standards on their wards. The Clinical Nurse Manager will visit the wards frequently and observe practice, and if not as required discuss with the Senior Charge Nurse. The Associate Nurse Director’s also undertake regular walk rounds and observe practice. NHSL has a process of Internal Reviews whereby a central team visit each of the acute sites at least twice per annum to review practice, HAI and OPAH. As part of these reviews dignity and respect are noted. A report is produced for each review and actions plans as required. This process is supported by the HIS inspection regime for Older People in Hospitals (OPAH).

Kind regards

Tracey Gillies
Executive Medical Director
NHS Lothian