Following the meeting of the Public Petitions Committee on 2 February, you wrote to seek my views on the petition and asked for clarification on whether CEL 4 (2010) will be updated to reflect changes introduced in the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act). You also asked about the clarity of accountability and how integration authorities are delivering the integration planning and delivery principles.

I am aware that you also wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, and I have seen the response she sent to you on 10 March.

We introduced CEL 4 (2010) to support NHS Boards in their statutory duty to inform, engage and consult with patients, the public and stakeholders. We do not plan to update this as Chief Executive Letters provide direction and guidance to NHS Boards rather than Integration Authorities.

The 2014 Act sets out the legislative framework for integrating health and social care. It requires Integration Authorities to engage and consult with a range of stakeholders, working with local communities and professionals to improve outcomes and sustainability through service redesign. As to establishing principles of openness and accountability, the Act contains specific integration planning principles, which include local community engagement and participation.

I recognise the role that the Scottish Government and Integration Authorities must play in building communities’ confidence in planning and implementing change. We are providing support to improve strategic commissioning in Integration Authorities, particularly through better data with which to plan services. We are also supporting local leaders, with improvement support available from the Improvement Hub at Healthcare Improvement Scotland.

Please get in touch if we can provide any further information that would be of use to the Committee.