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Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament

Email: FPA.committee@Parliament.Scot

28 February 2023

Dear Kenneth,

I refer to the report of the Finance and Public Administration Committee on the Financial Memorandum for the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill.

I note the Committee's request for the Scottish Government to respond to the report, and to provide an update to the Financial Memorandum prior to the completion of Stage 1, currently scheduled for mid-March. However, I propose to wait until all the Committee reports on the Bill have been completed and I have had time to consider the full weight of the evidence before I respond.

It is important to me that any update to the Financial Memorandum takes full account of potential updates Scottish Ministers may make as a result of the evidence offered. This approach will avoid the need for potential further updates to the document within a short space of time, which may lead to unnecessary confusion. Given the large number of Committees who have taken an interest in this Bill, and the substantial amount of evidence taken, I hope the Committee will understand.

Kevin Stewart
Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care

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