

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

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

By email
FPA.committee@parliament.scot

9th of May 2023

Thank you for your letter of 24 April, following up the correspondence that took place between the Finance and Public Administration Committee and the former Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care in relation to the Committee's report on the Financial Memorandum for the National Care Service (NCS) Bill.

As you have noted, the Scottish Government intends to seek Parliament's approval for a further extension to the Bill's Stage 1 deadline beyond June. This will allow us to continue engagement and co-design activities through the summer, in order to find compromise and reach consensus with those who have raised concerns during the Stage 1 scrutiny undertaken so far.

I regret that I am unable to give any more detail on the proposed new timetable for completion of Stage 1 at this point, as that is a matter for the Parliamentary Bureau, and Parliament itself, to agree. The Scottish Government will make a proposal to Bureau on a revised Stage 1 deadline once discussions with the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee have taken place.

I appreciate your Committee's position that you wish to receive the additional information requested in time to provide further views in to the lead committee's final report. However, it is important that the additional financial information is as clear and accurate as possible. As you will be aware, it is not usual to provide any revision of the Financial Memorandum for a Bill until after Stage 2, and then only to reflect any changes that have been made to the provisions of the Bill.

In that context, I welcome the Committee's willingness to consider an update to the Financial Memorandum in order to address some of their concerns prior to the Stage 1 debate, but I do not wish to confuse matters by providing multiple versions.

It is highly likely that the discussions and engagement, with key partners and stakeholders, that are to take place over the summer will bring more certainty to some aspects of the NCS

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

and enable us to provide more detail or to narrow some of the cost ranges in the Financial Memorandum.

I therefore consider that it would be more helpful to wait until after those discussions have concluded to provide a single update to the Financial Memorandum. I am happy to commit to providing a response to the Finance and Public Administration Committee's report at least four weeks before the revised date for the Stage 1 debate, and we will take this into account when seeking Parliament's agreement to a revised timetable.

In line with this position, I do not feel it would be helpful to give evidence to the Committee at this stage, but I will be happy to do so once we have provided the Scottish Government's response and update to the Financial Memorandum.

You also requested a detailed breakdown of spend to date on the NCS, following the information given in my predecessor's letter of 23 March. This is provided in the annex to this letter. It is not possible to separate costs relating to the provisions of the Bill and those which result from the wider NCS programme. With the exception of a small dedicated Bill management team, the majority of officials working on the policy development, co design and implementation of a National Care Service are in multi disciplinary teams, ensuring that co design truly informs the development of policy and legislation and results in delivery and implementation that improves the lives of the people of Scotland. This also ensures that officials build capability and knowledge and are able to work in a flexible way to support the outputs of co design. There is therefore no unspent funding to be reallocated, officials continue to review priorities in line with the current fiscal position at all times to focus on improving services for those who access social care support.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Maree Todd

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver



Annex – NCS programme expenditure, 2021-22 to 2022-23

Staff costs

Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	2021-22 Total
				£113,952	£257,941	£128,835	£153,206	£137,431	£155,425	£209,892	£176,099	£1,332,783
Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	2022-23 Total
£419,510	£496,594	£510,242	£518,328	£589,305	£756,771	£868,086	£1,302,827	£1,112,479	£1,092,111	£1,078,993	£1,019,486	£9,764,733

Total staff and non-staff

Spend Classification	2021-22 Spend	2022-23 Spend
Staff pay costs	£1,332,783	£9,764,733.34
Staff Related non-pay	£16,420	£142,614.00
Engagement	£15,560	£475,385
Consultancy	£276,560	£1,929,536.33
Total	£1,641,323	£12,312,269

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

