



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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30 June 2022

Dear Minister,

### **Request for additional information**

Thank you for appearing before the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee on 28 June 2022 to answer the committee's questions on its inquiry into health inequalities.

During the meeting you, and your officials, agreed to provide additional information on the following:

#### **National strategy and cross-portfolio working**

During the meeting there was discussion on the Scottish Government's existing approach to strategy development and cross-portfolio actions to tackle inequalities. You committed to ask the Deputy First Minister to provide the Committee with an outline of the key upcoming cross-portfolio actions to tackle inequalities in the coming year. The Committee requests this outline is submitted as part of your response to this correspondence.

#### **Supporting communities**

The Committee raised the 'Chance 2 Change' initiative in Scotland, an established community peer support group in Glasgow, as raised by Dr Cawston during a previous evidence session on the inquiry.

You highlighted work by MECOPP training community health workers in Gypsy and traveller communities to increase access to services such as cervical screening.

In addition, Mr Kellet went on to outline a range of initiatives to support communities to help themselves tackle health inequalities through the Place and Wellbeing programme, as well as sharing best practice in this area.

The Committee would welcome further detail on each of these initiatives.

### **Accessible public health information**

During the session, there was discussion on the provision of accessible public health information in a range of foreign languages, with a Member noting that NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde did not have any patient information translated into Indian languages. In a recent [letter to the Committee](#) Public Health Scotland outlined actions to developing public health information for the public during the pandemic, which also did not include this community. You committed to follow-up directly with NHS Greater and Clyde and we look forward to hearing an update on why no accessible public health information is available for the Indian community.

### **Cost-of living**

There was also discussion on the effects of the current cost-of-living crisis on vulnerable groups. You offered to write to the Committee with detail of work underway and options considered by the Scottish Government to support particularly vulnerable groups during this time. We'd be grateful if you could also outline the actions the Scottish Government is taking to build resilience to anticipate and mitigate impacts of any future additional shocks.

### **Additional information**

During the session, there was discussion around policy and strategy development to tackle inequalities caused by socioeconomic disadvantage. Please also provide an update on the extent the Fairer Scotland Duty is currently applied in policy development, the effect the Duty is having, and if there are specific public bodies who have demonstrated good practice in applying the Fairer Scotland Duty to their policy decision-making processes?

I would be grateful to receive a response by **Friday 15 July 2022** and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Paul O'Kane MSP  
Deputy Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee