



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Committee Conveners
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Via email only

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
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7 September 2022

Dear Convener,

National Care Service (Scotland) Bill

As you will be aware, on 20 June 2022, the Scottish Government introduced the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill to the Scottish Parliament. On 30 June 2022, the Parliament agreed to designate the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee as lead committee for scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1 and to designate the Education, Children and Young People Committee and the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee as secondary committees.

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee has now considered and agreed a provisional approach to Stage 1 scrutiny of the Bill. The Committee plans to commence taking oral evidence on the Bill immediately following the October recess and aims to have concluded by taking oral evidence from the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care on either 13 or 20 December.

Given the broad scope and potentially far-reaching implications of the Bill for a wide range of policy areas and stakeholder groups, I am writing to request that you respond to this letter **by 30 September**, indicating whether or not your committee intends to undertake its own scrutiny of the Bill as it relates to your committee's specific remit and responsibilities. If so, it would be useful to know what form that scrutiny is likely to take, any specific output you would expect that scrutiny exercise to have and the likely timeframe for completing scrutiny.

Ideally, if your committee does intend to undertake its own scrutiny, it would be helpful to receive any associated output no later than **1 December** to enable any relevant findings to be factored into my Committee's planned oral evidence session with the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care.

In preparing the Committee's Stage 1 report, our intention will be to include any input from other committees as an annex to the report and, where relevant, to cite extracts of these in the body of the report.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Martin'.

Gillian Martin MSP
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee