

Ms Gillian Martin MSP
Convenor
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament



By email

20 January 2023

Dear Gillian

National Care Service Bill timing

Firstly, can we wish you all the best for 2023. It is clearly going to be a busy year with significant pressures on us all; we look forward to CCPS continuing to work with you and the wider committee constructively and positively as we address the issues facing social care and support just now, and into the future.

Both CCPS and our individual members are spending considerable effort and resource in addressing the immediate winter pressures faced by our teams and the people our member organisations support. Much attention is afforded to the crisis in the NHS; the quiet crisis being faced in equal measure in the social care and support sector is less well covered in the public discourse. We know that you and your fellow committee members are well apprised on the issues we face, which really do warrant the word 'unprecedented'.

In light of this, and the considerable amount of work required to turn the National Care Service Bill into the legislation we had all hoped for, we are writing today to urge the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to consider delaying activity on any Stage 2 of the Bill to the autumn of 2023 at the earliest. Our NCS discussion paper set out our own aspirations for this reform, but we – as I know many other organisations have noted – are concerned that in the current climate the 'bandwidth' to truly engage in legislative improvement is minimal. Getting the NCS Bill wrong would be a catastrophic outcome for an already under-resourced sector and the people we serve.

CCPS remains committed to engaging in the reform agenda begun by the Independent Review of Adult Social Care, and we will continue to support provider engagement and voice in collaborative change. To do this justice, and to follow

through on the extensive legislation amendments we began to set out in our [discussion paper](#), we all need time which is simply not available in the current crisis.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss our concerns.

With all good wishes

Handwritten signature of Rachel Cackett in black ink, featuring a horizontal line underneath the name.

Rachel Cackett

CEO
CCPS

Handwritten signature of Ron Culley in black ink.

Ron Culley

Chair, NCS Committee
CCPS