



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jenni Minto MSP  
Minister for Public Health and  
Women's Health  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
Tel: 0131 348-5979  
Calls via RNID Typetalk:  
18001 0131 348-5979

Via email only

Email: [HSCS.committee@Parliament.Scot](mailto:HSCS.committee@Parliament.Scot)

5 December 2023

Dear Minister,

### **Women's Health Champion**

1. At its meeting on 21 November 2023, the Committee held an evidence session with the Women's Health Champion to receive an update on her work since being appointed and on the implementation of the Scottish Government's women's health plan.
2. Following the session, the Committee wanted to take the opportunity to write to the Scottish Government to commend the appointment of Professor Anna Glasier OBE as the first Women's Health Champion for Scotland, and her progress to date to drive forward actions set out within the Women's Health Plan.
3. During the session, Professor Glasier purposefully articulated the priorities set out in the women's health plan, the clear rationale for areas not covered, and areas for consideration for future iterations of the plan.
4. Professor Glasier also informed the Committee of the progress made so far to improve health outcomes for women and girls in Scotland, including raising awareness of women's health, improving quality of and access to healthcare services for women and girls, and reducing specific health inequalities that women and girls face.
5. The official report of the session is available here: [Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Official Report: 21 November 2023](#).

6. The Committee is aware from the answer to written question [S6W-17979](#) that Professor Glasier is contracted to work four days a month as the Women's Health Champion and that her tenure is due to come to an end in June 2024.
7. Following the session, the Committee would be grateful for an update from the Scottish Government regarding the following:
- Plans to maintain and/or extend the role of Women's Health Champion beyond June 2024;
  - Terms of appointment including maximum tenure for any individual appointed to the role of Women's Health Champion;
  - Processes to publicise to healthcare providers and the public progress made in relation to actions contained within the women's health plan as well as any good practice identified by the Women's Health Champion;
  - What role the Women's Health Champion will have in the development of the next women's health plan;
  - Plans for consultation with stakeholders to inform the development of the next women's health plan, including timescales and which stakeholders the Scottish Government plans to consult with to inform the next plan;
  - Plans to allocate any additional funding to support the actions required to evaluate, measure and implement the women's health plan, as identified by the Women's Health Champion.
8. During the session, Scottish Government officials also offered to provide further clarification on any issues identified during the session that engage Government policy. In her evidence, Professor Glasier was clear that the women's health plan does not exist in isolation and that the plan focuses on areas that are not covered under other areas of Scottish Government policy. However, the Committee would be grateful for further detail on how the Scottish Government will prioritise areas in the development of the next plan. The Committee also requests further detail on how the plan and the role of the Women's Health Champion will intersect with, and enhance, other policy areas discussed during the session, such as:
- Mental health - the [Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan](#) states that "We will embed specific mental health actions and commitments within the Women's Health Plan".
  - Perinatal mental health and the plan for maternity and neonatal care.
  - Substance misuse and related deaths, including recommendations from the [Women and Drug Related Deaths – Short Life Working Group Report](#)
  - Cancer, as identified in the [Lancet Commission on women, power and cancer](#) as this relates to the intersection of social inequality, cancer risk, and outcomes, and the status of women in society.
9. I would be grateful to receive a response by **7 February 2024** and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CHaughey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'H'.

Clare Haughey MSP  
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee