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Clare Haughey MSP
Convener of the Health, Social Care and Sport
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
hscs.committee@parliament.scot

18 December 2024

Dear Ms Haughey,

Update on the UK Government's ban on Puberty Blockers

Further to my update on the 20 November 2024, I'm writing to let you know about the UK Government's decision to put in place an indefinite ban on new children and young people aged under 18 years from beginning to take puberty blockers for the purposes of gender incongruence and/or gender dysphoria, under the care of private or non-UK prescribers. This decision was made after the UK Government carried out a targeted consultation and took advice from the Commission on Human Medicines.

The legislation was laid on 11 December and will come into effect on 1 January 2025. This follows temporary restrictions initially introduced on 29 May 2024 that run until 31 December 2024.

As a result of this legislation change and the earlier clinical decision taken by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GGC) and NHS Lothian to halt the 'routine' prescribing of puberty blockers as a treatment option for gender incongruence/dysphoria to children and young people under 18 years of age, the only route to access puberty blockers for this purpose in this age group will be via clinical research within the NHS.

A long-term four nations research study led by NHS England/National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) is expected to start to recruit children and young people in Spring 2025.

I trust you find this update helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Alison Strath FRPharmS
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer