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Clare Haughey MSP  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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2 September 2025

Dear Claire

I am writing to inform you and members of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee about Exercise Pegasus, a forthcoming Tier 1 national pandemic exercise led by the UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care and the UK Health Security Agency, with participation from the Scottish Government and other Devolved Governments.

This exercise is designed to rigorously test the UK's response to a future pandemic caused by a novel infectious disease. Exercise Pegasus will be a 'live play' scenario, involving real-time decision-making and coordination across all UK Government departments, Devolved Governments and thousands of participants from across the nations and regions of the UK.

The UK National Risk Register and accompanying Scottish Risk Assessment continue to identify pandemics as a top-tier risk. The experience of COVID-19 underscored the critical importance of preparedness and revealed areas where our systems must improve. While previous exercises and the ongoing COVID-19 inquiries have highlighted strengths, they have also exposed gaps in our response. Pegasus offers a vital opportunity to test, learn, and strengthen our collective resilience – not to deliver perfection, but to enhance readiness.

Scottish Ministers and officials are fully committed to participating in Exercise Pegasus and will take part throughout its duration. We view this as a key opportunity to reinforce Scotland's preparedness and contribute meaningfully to the UK-wide preparedness for future pandemics.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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I will keep the Committee informed of relevant developments and outcomes arising from the exercise, including any implications for Scotland's pandemic preparedness and response systems.

Yours sincerely



**NEIL GRAY**

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