



T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [ministerscmw@gov.scot](mailto:ministerscmw@gov.scot)

Clare Haughey MSP  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

By Email: [hscs.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:hscs.committee@parliament.scot)

**1 September 2025**

Dear Clare

## **Learning Disability Week 2025**

You will be aware that Scottish Learning Disability Week takes place from 8-14 September and is an important opportunity for us to celebrate people with learning disabilities and the hugely valuable contribution they make to our communities across Scotland. The week reminds us of the need to make Scotland a fairer place, where people with learning disabilities are respected, included, and have equal opportunities in all areas of life.

Every year has a different theme and this year's theme of "I am here" was chosen and developed by people with learning disabilities. For my part, I will be spending the week meeting with people with learning disabilities and those who support them, to understand what more we can do to ensure people with learning disabilities are recognised and feel seen, listened to and included in our society.

I would very much encourage Members of the Committee to engage with the Week's programme as there will be a variety of events across the week held by a wide range of stakeholders, including people with lived experience, their parents and/or carers and professionals supporting them. Further details are available on the LDW website [www.ScotLDWeek.com](http://www.ScotLDWeek.com).

It may also be of interest for Members to note the Scottish Government is running a session on Monday 8 September about learning disability annual health checks. The session is entitled "I am here – I am healthy" and attendees will hear case studies from six Health Boards: NHS Grampian, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Orkney, NHS Lothian, NHS Borders and NHS Tayside. These case studies will highlight the positive impact annual health

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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)

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG  
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020



checks are having and will feature contributions from people with learning disabilities and their families and carers.

I know Members have taken a keen interest in Learning Disability Annual Health Checks which are saving and improving lives. We launched this initiative following evidence that people with learning disabilities are dying on average 20 years earlier than the general population from largely preventable illness and disease. The national directions we have issued to Health Boards, accompanied by £2 million of annual funding, demonstrates the importance we attach to this issue.

It will be of interest to the Committee that the Scottish Government recently published the national delivery figures for annual health checks in 2024-25 which evidenced that over six thousand people with a learning disability were offered a health check. This is a marked improvement in delivery, with an additional 4,756 people being offered an annual health check compared to 2023-24. Of these, nearly four thousand people took up the opportunity to have a health check, resulting in 1,740 onward referrals to other services, providing vital opportunities for prevention, early intervention, treatment and support.

Whilst I hope you will agree this is very welcome progress, I am clear that we must do more to deliver our ambition in full and ensure every eligible person is able to take up the offer. To do this we will continue engaging closely with Health Boards and we will continue to fund and support them so they can fully implement this important initiative.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on our £10 million Changing Places Toilets Fund, which launched on 7 August and aims to provide up to 150 new facilities across Scotland's communities. Changing Places Toilets are larger accessible toilets designed to meet the needs of disabled people who need carer support and specialist equipment to use the facilities and have their personal care needs met, fulfilling a basic human right for them.

There has been strong interest in this Fund to date which is open to applications until Monday 20 October. Information on the Fund is available on [Inspiring Scotland's website](https://inspiring-scotland.org.uk/) and I would appreciate if Members might look to share details of the Fund with relevant stakeholders in their respective constituencies to ensure as many organisations as possible can benefit.

Yours sincerely



**TOM ARTHUR**

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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)

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG  
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020

