

Ministear airson Cùram Sòisealta agus Sunnd Inntinn  
Tom Arthur BPA



Scottish Government  
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Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing  
Tom Arthur MSP

T: 0300 244 4000

E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

2 March 2026

Dear Committee Members,

### **Dudhope Young People's Inpatient Unit (YPU), Joint Inspection/Visit Report**

I am writing to update the Committee on a recent inspection report concerning Dudhope YPU, NHS Tayside, and to set out the immediate actions being taken to address issues identified.

The joint report by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) and the Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) (published on 26 February) relates to an unannounced inspection of Dudhope as part of the Joint CAMHS Safe Delivery of Care Inspection and Visit programme.

The report sets out 12 areas of good practice and 5 areas for improvement from the MWC and 6 requirements from HIS.

Areas of good practice included: young people and their families feeling supported by staff; parents and carers feeling involved in decisions; and that appropriate safeguards were in place to ensure lawful treatment under the Mental Health Act and Adults with Incapacity Act.

However, it also identified a number of areas requiring improvement including: built environment issues such as inability to control the heating; faulty fire doors; damaged flooring; and ineffective cleaning within rooms. Additionally, there were governance issues around: a lack of detailed recording of significant events; lack of readily available

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multidisciplinary risk assessments; and no promotion of advance statements which would allow patients to set down preferences, wishes, beliefs and values regarding their care. Also, there were training gaps highlighted, including: child and adult protection compliance; and immediate life support training for rapid tranquillisation. A longstanding lack of social work input into the unit was also flagged as an issue.

The Scottish Government expects NHS Tayside to respond with urgency, rigour and full transparency. My officials are maintaining close oversight of progress.

To that end, I have requested an urgent meeting with the Chief Executive of NHS Tayside to gain assurance that she and her senior team are taking forward all the required improvements arising from the inspections. This will include confirmation that:

- the robust action plan is in place and will be implemented;
- that governance and clinical oversight arrangements are being put in place;
- improved recording of incidents of restraint is implemented and;
- learning from this inspection will be embedded across all relevant services.

HIS and the MWC will continue to monitor NHS Tayside's progress in delivering the required actions and will provide assurance to the Scottish Government on the pace and effectiveness of this work. The MWC has expressed confidence in NHS Tayside progressing the required actions. However, due to their level of concern they intend to follow up with a visit to provide further assurance, bringing forward their yearly visit.

I wish to assure the Committee that we are committed to ensuring that the concerns identified through these inspections are addressed fully and that the necessary improvements are secured for patients, families, and staff. I will provide further updates to the Committee as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely,



**Tom Arthur MSP**

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