

Ministear airson Cùram Sòisealta agus Sunnd Inntinn  
Tom Arthur BPA



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Clare Haughey MSP  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

24 February 2026

Dear Clare

## NHS Lothian Inspection Reports

I am writing to update the Committee on two recent inspection reports concerning NHS Lothian, and to set out the actions being taken to address issues identified without delay.

The first [report](#) (published on 23 October) relates to an unannounced joint inspection/visit of the Melville Unit of the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People by HIS and the Mental Welfare Commission (MWC). This identifies a number of areas requiring improvement including: aspects of clinical governance; workforce capacity; the consistency of care planning; and the inappropriate use of restraint. The second [report](#) by HIS (published on 13 November) followed an unannounced inspection of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital as part of the Adult Safe Delivery of Care inspection programme which similarly highlighted concerns around: leadership oversight; environmental safety; documentation; and the reliability of escalation processes.

The Scottish Government takes the findings of both reports extremely seriously. My officials have agreed a clear course of action to ensure that NHS Lothian responds with the necessary pace, rigour and transparency.

To that end, I have met with the Chief Executive of NHS Lothian and welcome the constructive and collaborative approach being taken by her and her senior team to address

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the improvements identified through the inspections. I have been assured that NHS Lothian is actively progressing this work, including:

- developing and implementing action plans in response to each report;
- strengthening governance and clinical oversight arrangements;
- reviewing and enhancing workforce, safety, and quality processes where appropriate; and
- ensuring that learning from both inspections is shared and embedded across all relevant services.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland will continue to monitor NHS Lothian's progress in delivering the required actions and will provide assurance to the Scottish Government on the pace and effectiveness of this work, including undertaking a follow-up inspection and report at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and progress at the Melville Unit. The Director of Mental Health meets monthly with the Lothian Chief Executive to discuss progress within CAMHS and the Government will maintain close oversight throughout this period.

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**

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