

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Slàinte agus Cùram
Sòisealta
Neil Gray MSP
Niall Gray BPA
T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Clare Haughey MSP,
Convener,
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Scottish Parliament

By e-mail: hscs.committee@parliament.scot

23 January 2026

Dear Clare

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMON SERVICES AGENCY) (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2026 (the Order)

THE NHS EDUCATION FOR SCOTLAND AND THE COMMON SERVICES AGENCY (TRANSFER OF STAFF) REGULATIONS 2026 (the Regulations)

You will be aware that I have laid the above Order and Regulations in the Scottish Parliament.

Scotland's Public Service Reform Strategy commits to reducing duplication and improving efficiency through streamlined public bodies. The Health & Social Care Service Renewal Framework (SRF) builds on this by setting an ambition for a national organisation delivering Once for Scotland services across health and care, with potential to support wider public service reform.

The Order and Regulations give effect to that commitment, through the merger of NHS National Services Scotland (NSS – the name by which the Common Services Agency/CSA is known) and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) into a single body which will drive digital transformation, enable innovation, and ensure consistent delivery of strategic priorities aligned with prevention, community-based care, and population health. The intention is that this organisation will support NHS Boards, the Scottish Government, and wider public services through integrated delivery and transformation, while delivering improved value for money.

The CSA remains an NHS body with functions relating to the provision of services for the health sector, and the ability to enter into agreements to provide services to other organisations across the public sector with the agreement of those organisations and the Scottish Ministers.

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The Order amends the [National Health Service \(Functions of the Common Services Agency\) \(Scotland\) Order 2008 \(SSI 2008/312\)](#) to transfer functions of NES (a special health board) to the CSA. In addition, the Order transfers the property, rights, liabilities and obligations of NES to the CSA, amends primary and secondary legislation to remove references to NES and, where appropriate, replace those references with references to the CSA, and makes transitional provision in relation to the transfer of functions, property, rights etc from NES to the CSA. The Order dissolves NES and revokes [The NHS Education for Scotland Order 2002 \(SSI 2002/103\)](#).

The Regulations make provision in consequence of the dissolution of NES and the transfer of its functions to the CSA by providing for the transfer of the staff of NES to the CSA on 1 April 2026.

In addition, the Regulations amend the Common Services Agency (Membership and Procedure) Regulations 1991 to provide that all members of the management committee of the CSA will be entitled to remuneration for their role as members of that committee, other than executive members who are also CSA employees.

Before the laying of the Order and Regulations, a significant amount of assurance activity was undertaken to ensure organisational readiness for an April 2026 launch. The programme considered three key criteria, that ensured that from April 2026 there was full legislative compliance, that there was no disruption to service delivery and that employees from NES were fully transferred and paid on time.

All activity required to enable the establishment of an expanded CSA, and the dissolution of NES, was fully assessed against those criteria. In addition, both NES and NSS provided organisational readiness assurance.

The working name for that organisation has been NHS Delivery, however I can confirm that from 1 April 2026 the name by which the CSA is known will change from “NHS National Services Scotland” (NSS) to ‘Public Services Delivery Scotland’ (PSD Scotland). The Common Services Agency will remain the body’s legal name. However, it is considered that the name PSD Scotland more accurately articulates what the Common Services Agency is capable of doing by virtue of section 10 of the *National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978* and section 62 of the *Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014*. Taken together, these powers will allow PSD Scotland (as the CSA) – over the next decade – to work with and for other public bodies with the consent of those bodies and the Scottish Ministers. The intention is that this arrangement will allow us, in the immediate term, to support the delivery of the Health & Social Care Service Renewal Framework. The legacy name of NSS will be retired.

I am happy to engage further as required.

Yours sincerely



NEIL GRAY

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St Andrew’s House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

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