



05/02/2026

Dear Convener and Members of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee,

**Subject: Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025**

I am writing to thank the Committee for the opportunity to give evidence on Tuesday 3rd on the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025. I was grateful for the opportunity to share the perspective of the TSI Scotland Network on the proposed extension of voting rights to lived experience, carer and third sector representatives.

I understand that, following the motion which has been raised, the Committee will return to consideration of the Order at its forthcoming meeting and will be asked to decide whether to recommend annulment. In light of this, I wanted to briefly restate why the TSI Scotland Network continues to view this reform as both necessary and constructive.

At its core, the extension of voting rights is about improving the balance of power and accountability within IJBs. Stakeholder representatives already carry responsibility and scrutiny for IJB decisions, yet their influence is limited by the absence of a formal vote. Addressing this gap strengthens governance and supports more transparent and accountable decision-making.

Representatives with lived experience and from the third sector bring perspectives that are essential to understanding the real-world impact of strategic decisions. Their involvement helps ensure that IJBs remain focused on prevention, community support and wellbeing, and are better equipped to lead the kind of system-wide change required to improve outcomes for people and communities.

The proposal does not alter the statutory balance between Health Boards and Local Authorities, nor does it undermine local democratic accountability. Instead, it reflects the reality that health and social care delivery depends on a wider



partnership, including the third sector and those with direct experience of services.

While we recognise that voting rights bring additional responsibilities, these can and should be addressed through clear guidance and appropriate support. We welcome the Scottish Government's commitment to further work in this area.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's scrutiny of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Natalie Masterson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light grey rectangular box.

Natalie Masterson, CEO Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise

On behalf of the TSI Scotland Network