

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health  
Jenni Minto MSP

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

Clare Haughey, Convener,  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee,  
[hscs.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:hscs.committee@parliament.scot)

23 March 2025

Dear Convener,

### **Blood Safety and Quality Common Framework Organs, Tissues and Cells Common Framework**

I am writing in reply to the letter of 20 May 2022, which detailed the Committee's observations and recommendations following their scrutiny of the above Common Frameworks, following on from the previous update given in my letter of 15 November 2024.

I am pleased to confirm that the final agreed Frameworks documents have now been published by the UK Government. I attach PDF copies with links here:

- [The Blood Safety and Quality Common Framework - GOV.UK](#)
- [The Organs, Tissues and Cells \(apart from embryos and gametes\) Common Framework - GOV.UK](#)

The Scottish Government's responses to each of the Committee's recommendations are presented in the Annex to this letter. They are accompanied by a summary of the significant changes to the Frameworks documents since their earlier publication. These take into account the recommendations from all legislatures. Officials across the four governments have jointly agreed the changes to the Frameworks documents, and undertaken a process of quality assurance prior to their final sign-off by ministers.

Finalisation of the Common Frameworks programme has been delayed due to the ongoing impact of the UK Internal Market Act (IMA). As set out in recent correspondence to the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee, the IMA continues to

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)

<https://www.nhsinform.scot>



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020



constrain the operation of certain Frameworks and careful consideration has been required before any signoff could proceed. The Frameworks currently being notified to Committees are those where the Scottish Government is satisfied that the IMA presents no significant impact to their effective implementation at this time.

We will write to you again regarding the other Frameworks that the Committee scrutinised once they have been finalised and published. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Committee's members for their valued contribution to the development of the Frameworks.

I am copying this letter and attachments to Clare Adamson MSP, Convener of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee due to the Committee's interest in the UK Common Frameworks programme.

Yours sincerely,



**Jenni Minto MSP**

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)

<https://www.nhsinform.scot>



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020



**Scottish Government responses to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee recommendations following scrutiny of the Common Frameworks**

**Recommendation 1: Prior to commencing operation, these Common Frameworks be amended to include a requirement that all UK parliaments should receive an annual report on their operation, focusing in particular on process, policy content and outcomes in those instances where decision-making has been escalated to a ministerial level or where the dispute resolution process has been triggered.**

*To support legislative and public scrutiny of the Frameworks, the Interministerial Standing Committee has agreed an annual reporting process which will be used to inform the Scottish Parliament and other legislatures of key developments once the Frameworks have been finalised.*

**Recommendation 2: The review process includes an assessment of whether procedures for parliamentary scrutiny of decision-making are suitably robust or whether these need to be further reinforced.**

*This commitment to consistent reporting on Frameworks post-finalisation will include a review of the decision-making across the Frameworks, as part of a wider assessment of their operational effectiveness. In addition, the review points specified in each Framework Outline Agreement will also provide the opportunity to take on board any feedback received from committees and improve decision-making within individual Frameworks.*

**Recommendation 3: As part of the review process, the Scottish Government undertakes to send the Committee a written update setting out its own experience of the operation of these Common Frameworks and that Ministers make themselves available to give oral evidence to the Committee on the back of that update.**

*The Scottish Government commits to sharing the outcome of the programme and policy level Framework reviews with the relevant committees, and Ministers will make themselves available to give oral evidence as part of this process.*

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)

<https://www.nhsinform.scot>



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020



## **Summary of significant changes to the Frameworks documents since their earlier publication**

### **Summary of Significant Changes to the Blood Safety and Quality Common Framework**

Updated Windsor Framework text

Inclusion of text on the UK Internal Market

Changes to the review and amendment timelines. The first review now occurs after one year, followed by three-year periodic reviews

Updated dispute resolution process

Amended references to retained EU law, amended to assimilated law

### **Summary of Significant Changes to the Organs, Tissues and Cells Common Framework**

Updated Windsor Framework text

Inclusion of text on the UK Internal Market

Changes to the review and amendment timelines. The first review now occurs after one year, followed by three-year periodic reviews

Updated dispute resolution process

Amended references to retained EU law, amended to assimilated law

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)

<https://www.nhsinform.scot>



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020

