



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

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

19 January 2026

Dear Convener,

I am writing to provide an update on Phase Two of the Women's Health Plan, which I am pleased to announce will be published tomorrow, Tuesday 20 January 2026. Phase Two will go live at 9am and can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781806435562>.

Women's Health is a key priority for this government which is why Scotland was the first country in the UK to publish a [Women's Health Plan](#) in August 2021. Wide ranging progress has been made in the first three years of the Women's Health Plan, and this is set out in the [Final Report](#), published in November 2024.

Phase One of the Plan achieved momentum in bringing the health of women and girls into the spotlight and making progress in improving services, but too many women continue to face avoidable health inequalities across the course of their lives. There remains more to be done for women and girls in Scotland.

Phase Two sets out the action that we will take over the next three years, driving towards our ambition that all women and girls in Scotland enjoy the best possible health, throughout their lives. It builds on the priorities set out in the first Women's Health Plan, with additional areas of focus where our partners, including women and girls, have told us change and improvement are needed most to improve the health of women and girls in Scotland.

I would like to highlight the new priorities in Phase Two which are focussed on tackling gynaecology waiting times, eliminating cervical cancer and prioritising women's brain health.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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These priority areas are further supported by 40 new actions, reflecting the needs of women and girls across the life course. These actions are focused on the Health of Women and Girls, Optimising Future Health, Gynaecology and Reproductive Health as well as Abortion, Sexual Health and Contraception.

This phase is backed by additional funding of over £2.4 million to tackle gynaecological waiting times, bringing additional investment in gynaecology services to almost £13 million this year.

To develop this next phase of the Plan, we gathered the latest evidence and brought together experts from a range of specialties, academia and the third sector, who work in women's health. Importantly, we engaged with women and girls across Scotland to ensure women's voices and experiences informed what was important to them in terms of their health and the focus of this next phase. A summary report detailing the findings from the focus groups undertaken with women and girls is published alongside Phase Two which can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781806435586>.

The Women's Health Plan is one part of a much wider picture when it comes to the Scottish Government's approach to improve the health and wellbeing of women and girls. To showcase the breadth of work happening, I am pleased also to share the publication 'The Health of Women and Girls: Health and Social Care Policy Beyond the Women's Health Plan' which can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781806435579>.

The publication of Phase Two of the Women's Health Plan reflects this government's ongoing commitment to improving the health of women and girls in Scotland. I hope that the new steps we propose will be of interest to colleagues and that they will find support from across the parties in the Parliament. Should you require further information on the publications shared, please contact my officials in the Women's Health Plan Team at womenshealthplan@gov.scot.

Yours sincerely



Jenni Minto MSP

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