



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Calum Campbell
CEO NHS Lothian

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Jane Ferguson
Director
NHS Lothian Charity

Email: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

Via email only

10 June 2022

Dear Calum and Jane,

Committee Inquiry into Community Empowerment Act 2015

The Committee has been undertaking an inquiry into the impact of the Community Empowerment Act 2015, in particular Part 9 of the Act, about the provision of allotments and community food growing spaces.

As part of the inquiry we have looked at the provision of growing spaces by a wide range of public bodies and other organisations, and have been made aware of the partnership work undertaken by NHS Lothian in this respect, in particular through your Greenspace and Health programme.

I understand that NHS Lothian has worked with the Cyrenians to provide community gardens at both the Royal Edinburgh hospital and the Midlothian Community Hospital, which include opportunities for food growing.

The Committee would be interested to learn more about this work and the potential for it to provide a model for how other Health Boards could use their estate in this manner. In particular it would be helpful if you could advise us:

1. How the partnership with Cyrenians was formed, and the investment required to establish the community gardens?
2. What resources are required to run the community gardens, and how they operate?
3. How you evidence the impact of the community gardens?

4. If you are aware of similar programmes led by other Health Boards?
5. Whether you have undertaken any other partnership work or if you intend to expand the programme in future?

Your response will form part of the evidence gathering undertaken during our inquiry.

I look forward to hearing from you and would be grateful for a response by **24 June 2022**.

Yours sincerely

Ariane Burgess
Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee