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Private & Confidential

Richard Leonard MSP
Convener
Public Audit Committee

Date 13 March 2026

Our Ref GJ/mw

By email only;
publicaudit.committee@Parliament.Scot

Dear Convener,

Update on Action Agreed at the Public Audit Committee Meeting of 25 February 2026

Thank you for the opportunity for myself and colleagues to provide evidence to the Public Audit Committee on 25 February 2026 in relation to the Section 22 report on NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

During the session, and specifically in response to a question raised by Deputy Convener Jamie Greene, I agreed to write to the Committee to provide further detail on the following matter:

An update on the number of GP practices currently supported through sustainability payments within the NHS Ayrshire & Arran area.

I can confirm that the requested information is provided below:

We have 53 GP practices across the region all of whom are independent contractors. We do not have any 2C practices in NHS Ayrshire & Arran and have not had any for over 5 years. Our most recent experience of a practice handing back a contract, resulted in a successful tender exercise with no break in service provision. We were reassured when multiple interested parties submitted competitive bids to take on the practice following the retiral / emigration of several of the previous GP partners.

Sustainability payments are currently being paid to 10 practices, with several specific circumstances considered and assessed. These payments are all currently being reviewed.

I trust that this information is helpful to the Committee in its ongoing scrutiny of NHS Ayrshire & Arran. Should the Committee require any further detail or clarification, I would, of course, be pleased to assist.

With regards

Professor Gordon James
Chief Executive