



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Public Audit Committee

Nicky Connor  
Chief Executive  
NHS Tayside

**27 January 2026**

Dear Ms Connor

### The 2024/25 audit of NHS Tayside

As you may be aware, the Public Audit Committee took evidence from the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) [on the above report](#) at its meeting on 10 December 2025. The Official Report of the meeting [can be found on the Committee's webpage](#).

Following the evidence session, the Committee agreed to write to you, in your role as Accountable Officer, to seek a response to the following issues raised in the report and during the meeting on 10 December 2025.

In his report, the AGS sets out the key messages from the audit at page 3. His conclusions can be found later, at page 11 of the report. During the evidence session we heard from the AGS that the report—

“...brings to the Parliament’s attention NHS Tayside’s progress in improving mental health services and outlines the substantial issues and challenges that remain for the organisation”.

**The Committee ask you to confirm it you accept the key messages and conclusions of the report?**

### Progress of the Whole System Change Programme

The report explains that the mental health and learning disabilities Whole System Change Programme (WSCP) has made some progress in addressing the issues previously identified by the Independent Oversight and Assurance Group (IOAG) in its 2023 report. The IOAG identified six priority areas which have been set out Exhibit 1 of the section 22 report.

The report states that NHS Tayside’s Board agreed to reduce the scope of the WSCP, with limited skills and capacity for leading and participating in the WSCP being highlighted as a key reason for this.

During the evidence session with the AGS, we also heard that—

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Contact: Public Audit Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.  
Email [publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

“The planned move to a single site for in-patient mental health services at Murray royal hospital in Perth is delayed and there is a lack of clarity on how concerns relating to the availability of staff and services at the new site will be addressed.”

The AGS went on to add that “although there is some important progress in some areas such as delayed discharges and the estate, it is clearly not enough”.

The report also found that progress was not reported clearly enough to enable good scrutiny or transparency.

**The Committee asks for a response to the following questions:**

- **What progress has been made with developing and signing off the new, reduced scope WSCP (the models of care) and developing clear costed plans to implement it?**
- **What progress has been made with developing a clear plan with timescales and costs for the move to a single site at Murray Royal Hospital?**
- **The extent to which engagement with patients, families, carers, staff and their trade unions is influencing decision making on the progress of the WSCP and the move to Murray Royal Hospital and how this is being transparently shared.**
- **What progress has been made in identifying and commissioning community provision for patients with learning disabilities who are experiencing long term delayed discharges?**
- **How progress of the WSCP is being measured and transparently reported in public.**

## **Governance and leadership arrangements for the WSCP**

The report also highlighted that the governance and leadership arrangements for the WSCP are “complicated and unclear”. During the evidence session on 10 December, we heard from the AGS that—

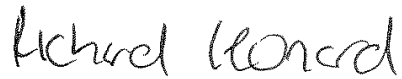
“There have been changes in executive leadership, governance and oversight, but they are very new, and they all have to come together effectively if they are to tackle the very real issues that are set out in the report”.

**The Committee asks for further detail on the recent changes that have been made to the governance and leadership arrangements for the WSCP. In particular, the Committee wishes to hear how these changes will provide clarity on the purpose, roles and responsibilities of the various groups involved in leading and overseeing the WSCP**

If you would also like to provide a response to any other issues raised in the report or during the evidence session on 10 December 2025, you are welcome to do so.

The Committee would be grateful for a response by **Tuesday 17 February 2026**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Leonard". The script is cursive and fluid.

**Richard Leonard MSP**

**Convener**