Cabinet Secretary for Health & Care
Angela Constance MSP

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

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Helen McDade MSP
Convener
Health, Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

3 November 2026

Dear Convener,

De-escalation of NHS Lothian on the NHS Scotland: Support and Intervention Framework for Mental Health Performance

I am writing to inform the Committee of my decision to de-escalate NHS Lothian from Stage Three to Stage Two of the NHS Scotland: Support and Intervention Framework for performance within Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

This decision follows consideration of evidence demonstrating that NHS Lothian has met all of the agreed criteria for de-escalation:

- NHS Lothian has demonstrated the elimination of waits over 52-weeks.
- NHS Lothian has strengthened compliance with both the Public Health Scotland Data Definitions and NHS Scotland Waiting Times Guidance.
- NHS Lothian has submitted an acceptable revised trajectory for reducing waits over 18-weeks and recovering performance through to March 2027.

The move from Stage Three to Stage Two reflects the significant progress that the NHS Board has made in addressing concerns that led to its escalation.

While I am sure you will agree that this progress is welcome, it is important to emphasise that de-escalation is in relation to performance in **CAMHS only**, and improvement activity and support will not conclude at this stage. NHS Lothian will continue to receive support and oversight through a programme of enhanced support to monitor and provide assurance on progress, and sustained improvement will be required to ensure that positive changes are built upon over time. This approach recognises the genuine progress made by the NHS Board, whilst continuing to focus on long-term improvement and delivery.

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The Scottish Government remains committed to improving mental health services for children and young people and my officials will continue to work closely with NHS Lothian to support further progress.

I trust the Committee find this update helpful.

Yours sincerely,



ANGELA CONSTANCE

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

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