Introduction

1. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill (referred to in this statement as ‘the Bill’) gives Scottish Ministers the power in section 33(3) to make regulations that prescribe the form and content of performance reports. The relevant power in the Bill as introduced is as follows:

33 (3) The Scottish Ministers may by regulation prescribe –

a) The form and content of performance reports,

b) The period during which performance reports must be published.

2. By virtue of section 49(4) of the Bill, regulations under this section will be subject to the negative procedure.

3. Ministers intend to propose an amendment to this section of the Bill which would remove (b). Instead the Bill will set out that an performance report must be published within four months of the end of the reporting year. Regulations will therefore not be made in relation to the period during which performance reports must be published.

The power as proposed to be amended is:

33 (3) The Scottish Ministers may by regulation prescribe –

a) The form and content of performance reports,

Background

4. Integration authorities will have responsibility for the planning and resourcing of a significant proportion of health and social care services within Scotland. It is important that the integration authority reports and accounts for their activities so the public are able to assess the progress made to improve outcomes by the integration authority that serves them.

5. Whilst the duties and responsibilities that come with the management of public finances will require local performance management arrangements to be put in place and external audit by scrutiny bodies, it is important that there is a robust public reporting mechanism which includes the key information that will allow the public to assess performance and provide the transparency and openness required of public agencies.

6. The performance report needs to provide a basis for national comparison between different integration authorities, whilst retaining flexibility for integration authorities to reflect on their local circumstance and particular population needs. It needs to report on the key elements of the reform.
Form and content of performance reports

7. It is intended that regulations made under this power will require that the performance report is to include consideration of all the functions that are set out within the integration plan and the associated budget.

8. Ministers also intend to provide in regulations will that the report must include an assessment of the following elements:

- Progress against the national health and wellbeing outcomes;
- Progress against a suite of key measures and indicators that will be noted in statutory guidance;
- Progress against the integration delivery principles with particular reference to strategic and locality planning;
- An overview of the integrated budget and the proportional changes within it;

In addition where the integration plan provided that an integration model set out in section 1(4)(b)(c) or (d) would be used, it is intended that regulations will require the performance report to include:

- Details of correspondence with the integration joint monitoring committee during the reporting year.

The Scottish Government
January 2014