



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Via email

Health and Sport Committee
T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5210
Calls via RNID Typetalk: 18001 0131 348 5224
Email: healthandsport@parliament.scot

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Dear Professor Leitch

Thank you for your letter of 18 December to our clerk in response to his letter on our behalf of the 7th. That exchange follows on from the evidence you gave to the Health and Sport Committee on Tuesday 28 November. The Committee having considered the correspondence along with correspondence with Healthcare Improvement Scotland are seeking clarification in a few areas. As National Clinical Director we would appreciate your views on these matters.

Adverse and Serious Adverse Events

In your oral evidence (column 20) you were clear “the numbers are only part of the system” but we remain unclear how it is possible to reliably identify “changes in patterns of incidents or concerns” occurring in an individual Board.

Part of our interest here arises as it is clear there may be a time-lag, perhaps of several months, between adverse events being reported and any details appearing within the performance management infrastructure. During this period of time a series of similar events could and indeed have, in places, occurred.

Could you therefore clarify how the current approach allows for the timely identification of similar incidents and avoids the build-up of systemic issues?

We are unfamiliar with the intricacies of the operation of the performance management infrastructure. In responding to the above please provide us with an example of how the performance management delivers the requisite intelligence. It would assist our understanding of the efficacy of the National Framework if you would also provide links to the locations of the information which underpins your confidence a national reporting system for serious adverse events is not required.

We are surprised by your written comment that information is not held centrally on the number of adverse events over the last 3 years given the oral evidence you provided. We also note the comment of Robbie Pearson that “the numbers are only part of the system”

We note the numbers are held at Board level and Board papers are monitored by the Scottish Government and your statement you “would know if that [a huge change in numbers of adverse events] happened”

Given the above and your evidence to the Committee that such events are “unusual” and the “Scottish Government monitors” numbers can you advise why numbers are not held centrally.

Person Centred Care

Thank you for the information about your strategic focus on person-centred care in response to the conveners closing question on how dignity and respect is built into the healthcare system. Please advise how that strategic focus is being measured and provide the latest results.

CPD for all staff

The second part of the convener’s final question related to CPD for all staff. You helpfully provide detail relating to those who are professionally registered. Can we have similar information for the remainder of the staff.

A response by Monday 5 February would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Lewis Macdonald
Convener
Health and Sport Committee