Dear Cabinet Secretary

Review of progress with integration of health and social care

Thank you for providing oral evidence at the Committee’s meeting on the 19 February on the Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care, Review of Progress with Integration of Health and Social Care.

The Committee has agreed that a key area of focus for its pre-budget scrutiny will be the integration of health and social care. To inform this work it would be helpful to receive a response to the following requests for further information which arose from the evidence session—

- Thank you for confirming that an Implementation Plan will be shared with the Committee following the Ministerial Strategic Groups consideration. It would be helpful if you could confirm when this will be available. (Col 6)
- Reference was made to the quality improvement methodology being available to the health directorate and COSLA. We would welcome further information on how this will be used by integration authorities. (Col 6,15)
- You stated at the evidence session that if integration authorities were not delivering progress you and Councillor Currie would need to consider whether
further joint interventions were required. Please can you provide further information on the nature of the interventions you were referring to. (Col 8)

- Improving the data available on integration authorities including their performance against outcomes has been a recurring theme for the Committee. You referenced triangulating the data that is already collected to measure across the system how well integration is working. We welcome these comments and request further information on what changes will be made to ensure this is delivered. (Col 7)

- Later in the evidence session John Wood, COSLA referenced that performance data on integration authorities is publicly available and the importance of ensuring there is local accountability and transparency on performance. Please can we request information on how it is being ensured this information is accessible, easy to understand and in a comparable format. It would also assist to have good practice examples of this approach being adopted. (Col 23)

- The Audit Scotland Report *Health and social care integration: update on progress* highlights that a significant number of integration authorities have had leadership changes with 57% having had changes in their senior management team. Please can you provide an updated percentage figure for leadership changes. Also, please can you provide information on leadership changes at each integration authority. (Col 12, 13)

- Building a single IT platform for health and social care was discussed and reference was made to the Digital Strategy and the costs for the Scottish Government and COSLA. The Committee still awaits a response to its most recent letter of 24 October 2018 regarding technology and innovation in health and social care in which we requested an update on leadership and innovation as well as to ‘read and write’ access to records on a single platform. Please can we request further information on this work and the costs associated with it. (Col 20-21)

- During the evidence session you were asked “What level of debt the integration authorities have collectively, as things stand today?” You told the Committee “I do not currently have that detail for the integration authorities, but I will be happy to provide it to the committee.” We would welcome this information and for it to be provided for each integration authority. (Col 25)

- Reference was made to the budget setting process being brought into line to enable all delegated budgets to be agreed by the health board, local authority and integration authority by the end of March. Are you anticipating all integration authorities to have agreed their budgets by the end of March? Can you confirm when details of these agreed budgets will be made available? The Committee would appreciate notification of final agreed budgets as soon as these are available (Col 27)

To assist with the Committee finalising its approach to pre-budget scrutiny it would be helpful if a response to this letter could be received by Friday 15 March.

Yours sincerely

Lewis Macdonald, Convener, Health and Sport Committee