



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Region

Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Sunday 8th April 2018

Dear Jenny

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Audit Committee following the revelations at NHS Tayside.

The use of more than £2million from NHS Tayside's charitable trust to fund a new back office computer system has caused immense local anger. It follows years of financial mismanagement at NHS Tayside, which has had to be repeatedly bailed out with loans from the Government.

I know that the Audit Committee has already looked in detail at the issues relating to NHS Tayside, but I think this incident raises a number of serious issues that go well beyond just NHS Tayside.

I therefore ask that you please reinvestigate the financing, accounting and management of NHS Tayside, but that the investigation should go further.

I think there is an urgent need to reassure the public that charitable donations that they make are being used appropriately. That's why I believe that the Committee should be taking evidence from every health board and asking them to answer whether they have ever used funds in this way.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport should also be called before the committee to answer a number of questions which relate to her own handling of this situation.

The problems at NHS Tayside are not new. They have had had issues relating to financing and management for years. In all that time, while making deals on brokerage, surely at some point the Government would have opened the books to see what was going on. If they did why was this not spotted and addressed? If they didn't, then why not?

I would please request that these issues are investigated as a matter of urgency.

Kind regards,

Anas Sarwar MSP