Dear Mr Gray,

I am writing to follow up my letter of 29 June 2017 concerning NHS Tayside, as the Committee considered that your response of 6 July 2017 did not fully explain the situation regarding brokerage.

NHS Tayside was scheduled to repay brokerage in each year from 2018-19 to 2021-22, which would have totalled £34.6m. We note your statement that suspending repayment “means that the Board can develop a plan with a lower level of savings required to achieve financial balance”.

However, we are still not clear about some of the wider practical implications of your decision, for example: how long will the suspension last; when will the sum be fully repaid; will any interest be incurred; what specific benefits will NHS Tayside derive; are there any significant implications for staff and patients; is it feasible that the brokerage will be written off; what are the wider implications for the Scottish budget of these repayments being suspended?

The Committee would be grateful for your response to these questions and for any other relevant information that you can provide.

Jackie Baillie MSP
Acting Convener