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Dear Robbie

HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT SCOTLAND: ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2019-20

Thank you for submitting your draft annual operational delivery plan for 2019-20 to the Scottish Government (SG). The Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) Sponsor Unit shared an early draft with the recently formed SG/HIS Internal Network and provided direct input to HIS to inform its evolution. We understand that this revised version was evolved and approved by the HIS Board at the end of March. The Sponsor Unit has shared this evolved document with the SG/HIS Internal Network and their input is incorporated into the comments below.

Finance and Performance

Within your financial plan, you have set out your intention to deliver breakeven in each year of the three year planning cycle to 2021-22 and we confirm that we are content with the assumptions you have used to underpin this. The outline three-year finance plan will form the basis of SG Finance discussions with you throughout 2019-20 and into future years, and there will be opportunity to discuss any updates as part of our in-year and annual review meetings.

We expect plans for the £15 million National Boards' efficiency saving to be fully developed in collaboration with your National Board partners by the end of June 2019. We expect this to include any readjustment to the baseline position for 2019-20 as well as the non-recurring carry forward from the shortfall in 2018-19. It is therefore essential that your planning assumptions in this regard are aligned to those of the other National Boards to fully deliver this. The work on the £15 million savings is being led by the National Boards' Directors of Finance Group who should be fully sighted on this element of your financial plan, as set out in the SG/HIS Operating Framework.

Governance of the quality of care

We recognise that HIS is supporting a national programme to improve the quality of nursing care and we understand that HIS is in discussion with colleagues in CNOD about the inspection regime, alongside other work relating to Excellence in Care and Health and Care Staffing legislation. The Sponsor Unit and I are keen to hear more as these discussions develop.

Patient Safety Alerts and Messaging

We welcome HIS's continued involvement in this area and your support over the coming months as this work undergoes a refresh.

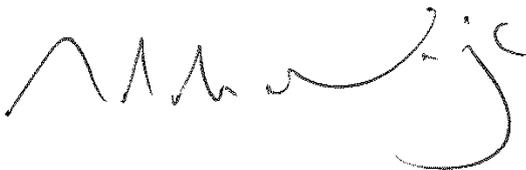
Adverse Events

I refer to the progress in taking forward the agreed actions as regards the role of HIS in the Adverse Events process, which is currently under review in response to the Health and Sport Committee's Governance report of last year. I appreciate that for the review to be effective, a baseline first needs to be established across Scotland to look at how Boards are implementing the Adverse Events Framework and to identify where improvements can be made.

I understand that HIS has recently shared a draft Adverse Events Management NHS Board Self Evaluation report with the Openness and Learning Unit and that a follow-up with all NHS Boards is currently underway to, where applicable, further understand some of the variations which have been identified. Once this is completed, which should happen shortly, the report will be finalised. I understand that you have provided colleagues in the Openness and Learning Unit with a number of proposed actions to take forward a range of improvements ensuring they are linked to related workstreams. This is encouraging and the Sponsor Unit and I look forward to hearing more from you and your colleagues on this important workstream, which has been identified as a priority by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.

Thank you again for sight of HIS's 19/20 annual operational delivery plan and for providing SG Officials with the opportunity to comment. We look forward to working with you over the coming year to support the delivery of this operating plan, taking these comments into account.

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm Wright

Director-General Health & Social Care and Chief Executive NHSScotland