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Mr Stuart McMillan MSP
Constituency Office
26 Grey Place
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Our ref: 2018/0028414
3 September 2018

Thank you for your letter of 10 August about NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde's review of breast services and local press coverage of an associated, leaked internal discussion paper.

As you point out, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde has been clear that the review of local breast services is still underway and that no service change decisions have been made. The Health Board has assured the Government that they are continuing to liaise with the Scottish Health Council to ensure that the development of their plans are fully informed by appropriate stakeholder engagement.

Please be assured that, should formal proposals be developed that are considered major service change, then they must be subject to full public consultation and, ultimately, Ministerial approval. In all such cases, I would carefully consider all the available information and representations before coming to a final decision in the best interests of local people.

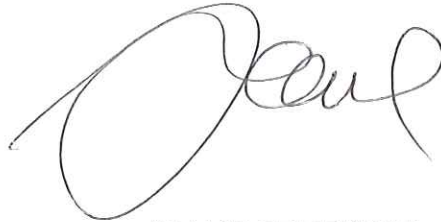
I fully understand your frustration that a leaked, internal Board discussion paper on this issue has received local press coverage and led to anxiety about possible service change, ahead of the review process concluding. I know the leadership of the Board share this concern and are reviewing their approach to such matters. I am also pleased to note that the Board

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Chair, John Brown, issued a media statement to address the public concerns raised by these articles on 18 July: recognising that suggestions Inverclyde Royal Hospital (IRH) is under threat only serve to undermine public confidence and staff morale; reassuring local staff, patients and the public that there is no such threat; whilst reiterating the Board's ongoing commitment to the long term future of the IRH.

I hope this is helpful.

Best wishes



JEANE FREEMAN

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 August 2018 16:51:52
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Qureshi J (John), Lusk R (Rachael)
Subject: FW: Letter from Stuart McMillan MSP

Attachments: CabSecHandS-10-08-18.pdf

PEU

Please add to MACCS as a MR.

Thanks,

Andrew

[REDACTED]
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Tel: [REDACTED]

[cid:image001.png@01D430CA.6FF1ED80]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 August 2018 15:17
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
Subject: Letter from Stuart McMillan MSP

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Please find attached a letter from Stuart McMillan MSP regarding breast cancer services in Inverclyde.

Best Wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.Stuart-McMillan.net<<http://www.Stuart-McMillan.net>>

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The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Ms Jeane Freeman
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
Scottish Government
Edinburgh

Date: 10 August 2018

Dear *Jeane*,

I write to draw your attention to a situation which has arisen from the leaking of an NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde private paper concerning the future of breast cancer services at the Inverclyde Royal Hospital.

The local newspaper, the Greenock Telegraph, acquired the health board paper, and have been running a number of stories based on the speculative proposals to remove services from the Vale of Leven and Inverclyde, and centralise them at the Royal Alexandra Hospital instead.

I naturally contacted the Health Board to discuss the suggestion that the services were under threat. They categorically denied that the services were moving, and assured me that any future proposal would have to go through a rigorous public consultation process before a decision like this could be made.

Can you please reassure me that there are no plans to move the breast cancer screening clinics out of Inverclyde? Can you also assure me that this leak of confidential Board papers is investigated, as it has caused untold stress and upset to the residents of Inverclyde who are currently using this service?

Yours sincerely

Stuart McMillan MSP