

Annex

Subject: RE: Re-Opening of Inch War Memorial Hospital

From: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Sent: 30 March 2021 11:40

To: GRAM GRAMPianchiefexecutive <gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot>

Cc: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: Re-Opening of Inch War Memorial Hospital

Good morning,

Grateful if we could be kept informed of the final response that goes to [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] from NHS Grampian.

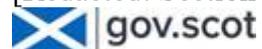
Many thanks in advance,

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Directorate of Health Finance

Scottish Government | Floor BR | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]



From: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
To: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] (NHS Grampian)
Subject: **Insch War Memorial**

9 June 2021 17:09

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Thanks for that helpful conversation on the current status of IWM. No sooner than I had updated the Minister's advisor on the position, that he came back to me saying that he assumes that NHS Grampian are aware of the manifesto commitment and that we would not be content to approve a major service change that contradicted that intention. I confirmed that you were well aware of the manifesto commitment, but I stopped short of saying that myself, sitting in a kitchen in Edinburgh, would be best placed to decide the service needs of the local population.

I don't think I am saying anything that will surprise you, but to be considered when thinking about next steps and if helpful, happy to discuss options once they become clearer.

Regards

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Health Infrastructure, Investment and PPE
Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates
[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Sent: 18 June 2021 16:24

To: GRAM GRAMpianchiefexecutive <gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot>

Subject: FW: Friends of insch hospital

Attachments:



Attachment 1, Email
4 (redacted).pdf

Good afternoon,

Scottish Government have received correspondence which I have pasted at the bottom of this email, it is about the Inch War memorial hospital.

I attached a pdf of the letter I have last seen on this from the Board on this matter (from March).

I would be grateful for any update on this situation – to include in our response to this letter.

Could I please request this by **COP next week**.

Many thanks,

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Dear Humza

We are writing to you on behalf of the Friends of Inch War Memorial Hospital. The hospital is based in rural Aberdeenshire and was included in the SNP manifesto as one of the facilities that you would look to "renew or upgrade".

The hospital was closed as a precautionary measure due to the COVID pandemic on the 25th March 2020. To date we have had no reassurance from NHS Grampian that the hospital will reopen. Prior to this closure this hospital was fully functioning and provided a vital resource.

The Friends of Inch Hospital have tried for many years to secure the future of local community Hospital provision by participating in several NHSG reviews and by developing many community led initiatives including a vision to replace the hospital building with the agreement in principle that NHSG would continue to provide the revenue for running the hospital.

Sadly the hospital has suffered from a lack of investment over decades, well before the pandemic despite various improvement plans suggested by the Friends and despite the Friends very generous offers of financial support . The Friends have always believed in Partnership working and have been keen to use the considerable funds raised by the

community to ensure that the hospital continues to be fit for purpose and best placed to serve the community. However, we have not felt that our integrated approach has been welcomed or encouraged by NHSG.

The hospital continues to remain closed. The Integrated Joint Board met on the 19th May 2021, for which the details can be found here: <https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=486&meetid=19947> (Insch hospital is addressed in the last 10 minutes of the recording). The IJB agreed that an assessment of the needs and services of Insch and the surrounding area would begin in partnership with the community. That was almost a month ago and we have had no information as to when the assessment process will begin or in what form.

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] are seriously concerned about the loss of the hospital and the very real impact on their patient population. They believe, without question, that the loss of in-patient beds has had a hugely detrimental impact on patient outcomes.

Last week, [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] met virtually with Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) to discuss a risk assessment of the hospital which had been carried out by a representative of AHSCP.

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] and [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] were appalled to witness a blanket Risk Assessment had been carried out for the building ranking every category as "High Risk" with regards to COVID transmission. There was no recognition that the level of risk for in-patient beds, day case treatments, or out patient appointments would obviously vary. No mitigating measures were suggested. [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] believes that there are strong grounds to dispute the risk assessment, based on the fact that all of the patients and staff who would be using the hospital are fully vaccinated and PPE, cleaning procedures etc would all be in place.

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] have expressed serious concern that the assessment wasn't carried out by an independent body. They are so concerned about the inaccuracies of the assessment that they have written to AHSCP but are doubtful whether their concerns will be heard.

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] have been informed that this assessment will be presented to the Clinical Governance Board **this Friday 11th June 2021** . If approved this will result in the hospital remaining closed for at least another 6 months. The Friends cannot understand why the first priority for the AHSCP, at this stage of the assessment process, is to ensure that the hospital remains closed.

We believe that it is essential that an independent assessment taking into account all the various forms of the use of Insch Hospital is carried out, alongside the Needs Assessment of the community.

The Friends are very keen to work with NHSG throughout the assessment process and use the substantial community funds earmarked for a new hospital /upgrades to the existing

hospital, and are confident that we could raise a considerable amount more, if NHS Grampian were willing to work with us in maintaining in-patient services in Inch.

We are fully aware of Government initiatives ie. Hospital at Home and the aim for patients to be cared for at home. However we believe that the most effective way of ensuring the best health and well being outcomes is to have a choice of provision.

There will always be a need for in-patient beds in rural Scotland and the closer to home the better. Inch Hospital is a community resource that significantly reduces load on centralised services and adds significantly to the overall efficiency of provision. We believe it is a model for cost effective delivery, which allows both prompt intervention locally, thus preventing general hospital emergency admissions, in addition to facilitating rapid rehabilitation.

Nicola Sturgeon visited the village during the election and witnessed the Have a Heart Campaign launched by the Friends to raise awareness of the closure. She vowed to help us reopen it! We were delighted to see it in the manifesto. We are currently a community in limbo desperately missing our local services. We have heard so many very sad and unnecessary tales of how the community has been adversely affected since its closure. We are not stuck in the past, and neither are we dogmatic in our approach. We genuinely believe we have a working model at Inch that could well serve future health care provision in rural Scotland generally.

I thank you for taking the time to read this and look forward to your response.

Kind Regards

The Friends of Inch Hospital & Community SCIO

From: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 21 July 2021 4:47 PM
To:[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] (NHS Grampian)
Cc: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Question on Inch War Memorial
Hi [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)],

I've copied [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] and [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] into this email as they will be better placed to answer your question re: the manifesto commitment.

Thanks for your quick response and I'll await [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] answer.

Best,
[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 29 July 2021 09:05
To: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Question on Inch War Memorial

Thanks [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)],

I also wasn't 100% clear on the answer to a question in a previous email.

Do you know if it is currently Grampian's plan to keep IWMH closed to inpatients while the SNA is ongoing?
Or will inpatient services return if there is staffing available before then?

Thanks,

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 29 July 2021 08:52
To: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Question on Inch War Memorial

Hi [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)],

The Cabinet Secretary has been asked a parliamentary question by a local MSP.

I really appreciate the help you've given me and I apologise for coming back to you over a few emails. I'm trying to be as thorough as possible so the Cabinet Secretary has correct and up to date information.

The hospital is still serving the local community for outpatient services at present?

Is there a list of services currently operating?
Online it says there is a minor injuries unit, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy.
Are those areas still operating, for example?

Thanks,

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 28 July 2021 17:01

To: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Question on Inch War Memorial

Hi [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)],

I hope you'll be able to answer another couple of questions regarding IWMH.

Do you know if it is currently Grampian's plan to keep IWMH closed completely while the SNA is ongoing?

Are the SNA and the closure unconnected? The SNA's remit (from the publically available documents) appears to be to look at the future health needs of Inch and the surrounding area, not necessarily just to look at what role IWMH will have in the region's health services in the future.

Thanks,

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

On 23 Jul 2021, at 13:15, [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] wrote:

Thanks again for you quick reply, [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)].

I may come back to you again.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

On 23 Jul 2021, at 12:32 [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] wrote:

Good morning [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)],

I wonder if I could come back to you to get clarification on a couple of points regarding IWMH.

Could you just confirm the reason why inpatient services were stopped in March 2020?

I'm assuming it was something to do with Covid but was it specifically because of infection control at IWMH, or was it because staff were moved elsewhere, or for some other reason?

Was the original decision to close IWMH for good in March 2020, or was it only ever meant to be a temporary closure due to Covid, whether that was due to staffing or infection control?

Thanks for your help,

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

On 21 Jul 2021, at 18:23 [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] wrote:

Hello [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)],

The Health Finance team have received a question relating to Inch War Memorial Hospital (IWM) and I hoped that you could give me some information on it. I know that you discussed the topic with [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] at the beginning of June and I'm looking to check the current status.

It looks to me that the current status is that the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) is still incomplete and that any decision regarding what the future of IWM will look like will be dependent on the SNA's results. Is that all correct?

Many thanks,

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Policy Officer

Directorate of Health Finance

Scottish Government | Floor BR | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

From[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 06 October 2021 13:59
To: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] (NHS Grampian)
Cc[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] (NHS Grampian)
Subject: FW: IWMH

Hi [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)],

Forwarding this on to you as I got [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] out of office.

Can you assist with this query before [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] returns?

Thanks,

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 06 October 2021 13:27
To: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] (NHS Grampian)
Subject: IWMH

Hi both,

We last spoke at the end of July and there was a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) being conducted, with the hope that this would be concluded at the beginning of next year.

At that point, Inch War Memorial Hospital (IWMH) was closed due to the staff being needed elsewhere as a result of Covid-19. It was also established that services would be unlikely to revert back to normal before the SNA was concluded.

Can I check that the information I have is still correct?

Could you give me a brief update on anything new?

Thanks,

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Policy Officer
Directorate of Health Finance
Scottish Government | Floor BR | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 06 October 2021 1:26 PM
To: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] (NHS Grampian)
Subject: IWMH

Hi both,

We last spoke at the end of July and there was a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) being conducted, with the hope that this would be concluded at the beginning of next year.

At that point, Inch War Memorial Hospital (IWMH) was closed due to the staff being needed elsewhere as a result of Covid-19. It was also established that services would be unlikely to revert back to normal before the SNA was concluded.

Can I check that the information I have is still correct?

Could you give me a brief update on anything new?

Thanks,

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Policy Officer
Directorate of Health Finance
Scottish Government | Floor BR | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG
[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

On 22 Oct 2021, at 17:01, [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)] wrote:

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

We would be interested in seeing all responses you put out regarding Insch Hospital, though I would prefer if you just sent them to us direct rather than making us a blind copy recipient.

It would be good to keep close on this because it has the potential to become a thing.

Regards

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

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From: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 25 August 2021 14:34
To: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: Update on Inch War Memorial Hospital - correspondence deadline 25 August 2021

Importance: High

Hi [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Would the 27 August give you enough time?
Kind regards
[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Sent: 19 August 2021 09:48

To: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Subject: Update on Inch War Memorial Hospital - correspondence deadline 25 August 2021
Good Morning [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

We have received the attached correspondence regarding Inch War Memorial Hospital. Would it be possible to provide an update by 25 August?

Kind regards

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Policy Officer, Home First Policy | Directorate for Mental Health and Social Care | The Scottish Government | [Tel:](#) | e-mail [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
| Mail: GE17 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road Edinburgh



The Friends of Inch Hospital & Community SCIO
Friends of Inch Hospital and Community Rannes Street
Inch Aberdeenshire
AB52 6JJ

Our Reference: 202100213780
Your Reference: Inch War Memorial Hospital

6 July 2021

Dear The Friends of Inch Hospital & Community SCIO,

I refer to your emails of 7 June and 9 June 2021 to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care about the Inch War Memorial Hospital. The Cabinet Secretary has asked me to thank you for your enquiry and to respond on his behalf.

On receipt of your email I contacted NHS Grampian to find out the latest position on this matter and I have set this out below.

As you have noted, the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) has instructed Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) Officers to carry out a strategic needs assessment for residents of Inch and the surrounding area, to develop options for the future health and social care service delivery models.

The Board have been informed by officers in the AHSCP that publicity in respect of promotion of the work was delayed until conclusion of the by-election in Ward 11, due to restrictions in publications during the pre-election period. The by-election was held on 17 June and the following day, Friday 18 June, a press release was circulated to inform the public about the strategic needs assessment. The Board are advised that in discussion with the Medical Practice, letters will be posted to all households registered at Inch Medical Practice from week commencing 28 June to inform them of the strategic needs assessment and ask them if they wish to be involved. Communications have been sent to local groups and societies to inform them of the project and to ask them to register if they wish to participate in the process. The Board understand that this has been sent to the Friends and that the Friends have kindly offered to assist in placing posters in the community to raise awareness. The AHSCP is keen to engage as widely as possible so this is very much appreciated.

In respect of your comments and concerns relating to a risk assessment, the Board understand that this has subsequently been discussed at meetings with officers from the AHSCP with both the Friends and, separately, the Medical Practice, and that clarification has been provided that the risk assessment does not form part of the project work, as it only reflects present risks held by the AHSCP, NHS Grampian and the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) in delivering in-patient services, rather than future plans or proposals for the hospital.

The Board are delighted to hear that the Friends are keen to work with them and the AHSCP throughout the assessment process and they have been reassured that there will be ample opportunity for the Friends to be involved and to share their ideas and suggestions as engagement will run throughout the process. Local community resources are very much a strength in our health and social care systems, and they appreciate the value they bring to our residents.

In terms of the future of the Insch War Memorial Hospital, the Board appreciate that this is a pressing issue in the minds of the Friends and the community. As the process will be led locally, it is their understanding that there will be two main phases of the project: the first will be gathering information from the community along with health and social care data about the patient population and demographic projections. The second phase will be the analysis of that information to identify the services required by the community, and this will allow the development of Service Plan options which will then be shared with the community as part of a formal consultation. The Board are informed that a project plan and timeline has been shared with the Friends and other community groups.

It is our expectation that as an outcome of the strategic needs assessment, noted above, that the Board will fully consider their current services in line with local need and any resulting service change would require public consultation and to follow the major service change process.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

HLTHFIN : Ministerial Support

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

Our Reference: 202100225317

16 August 2021

Dear [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)],

Thank you for your email 22 July 2021 regarding Inch Memorial Hospital and the consultation taking place.

I acknowledge that Inch hospital has played an important part in history and Community Hospitals serve a vital function in communities.

There is a Inch Strategic Needs Assessment Engagement Survey that can be accessed through Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership website [Insch - Strategic Needs Assessment | Engage Aberdeenshire](#) The survey closes on Sunday 29 August 2021.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

MHPD : Home First

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(a)]

Our Reference: 202100243884

Your Reference: Insch War Memorial Hospital

21 October 2021

Dear [Redacted: Section 38(1)(a)],

Thank you for your letter of 23 September 2021 to the First Minister regarding Insch War Memorial Hospital. The matter sits within the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care and he has asked me to reply on his behalf because I am the Deputy Director for Health Infrastructure, Investment, and PPE and lead on the policy advice for this issue. As I'm sure you will understand, Mr Yousaf is experiencing a significant increase in correspondence at present due to the COVID-19 pandemic and he has asked me to assure you that he continues to value the time you have taken to raise this issue with him and he hopes you will find the information in my reply helpful.

NHS Grampian's current closure of Insch War Memorial Hospital is a temporary measure due to pressures resulting from the pandemic. Health and social care services continue to be delivered to the people of Insch and its surrounding areas. Future use of the hospital will be shaped by the strategic needs assessment of health and social care provision and services in Insch and the surrounding areas, which is currently underway.

Should changes be proposed which require Scottish Government capital funding, these will be considered by the Scottish Government's NHS Capital Investment Group on receipt of the business case. It is important that the required due diligence is completed to ensure the best possible future services and facilities.

As set out in the Programme for Government, Scottish Government will invest £10 billion over the next decade to replace and refurbish our health infrastructure to build the NHS for the future and ensure patients continue to access high quality care in world-class facilities.

I hope this information is of help.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]

HIIPPE : HEAD OF DIVISION

Written Parliamentary Question: S6W-01512

Published: 6 August 2021

Minister Responding: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

[Redacted: Section 25(1)]

**OFFICE OF CHAIR &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Summerfield House
2 Eday Road
Aberdeen
AB15 6RE



[Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)]
Bennachie Community Council

Sent via eMail:
BennachieCC@outlook.com

Date: 17TH March 2021
Our Ref: 170321 CH 02 kl
Your Ref:
Enquiries to Prof Caroline Hiscox
Extension: 58552
Direct Line: 01224 558552
Email: gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot

Dear [Redacted: Section 38(1)(b)],

Thank you for your email received on 17th March 2021 in relation to re-opening of Insch War Memorial Hospital.

We understand the community's concern about the current closure of Insch Hospital, a decision that was taken at the beginning of the pandemic to consolidate staff and support critical service areas. We continue to review the situation but the reasons for redeploying staff from Insch Hospital have not changed at this stage. The staff from Insch have been redeployed to local teams and continue to deliver health and social care services to the people of Insch and its surrounding areas from a different base.

You may be aware that Donbank Ward opened again on 11th February 2021 and is accepting patients from the community as well as transfers from ARI.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Hiscox', written in a cursive style.

Professor Caroline Hiscox
Chief Executive, NHS Grampian