

FOI – 202200283512

ITEM 1

From: [Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Sent: 21 February 2022 17:36

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social Care <MinisterMWSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport <MinisterPHWHS@gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs Policy <MinisterDP@gov.scot>

Cc: Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; McCallum R (Richard) <Richard.McCallum@gov.scot>; Strategic Briefing Unit for Health <SBUHealth@gov.scot>; Jenkinson RML (Rachel) <Rachel.Jenkinson@gov.scot>; Health and Social Care Directors <DLHSCPHSCD@gov.scot>; Rogers S (Shirley) <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>;

[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Subject: RE: Audit Scotland report - NHS in Scotland - publication 24 Feb - for awareness

To PO Cabinet Secretary
PO Health Ministers
cc: Directors, Davie, Comms

PO team,

Further to the email below we now have pre-release access to this report and can provide briefing on the range of issues raised within in.

[out of scope]

[Out of scope]

Media handling – Audit Scotland will share their News Release with our press team tomorrow, who will then advise on media handling.

[Out of scope]

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you require anything further at stage.

Many thanks,

[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]



From: [Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Sent: 08 February 2022 16:32

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social Care <MinisterMWSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport <MinisterPHWHS@gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs Policy <MinisterDP@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information] Hutchison D

(David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; McCallum R (Richard) <Richard.McCallum@gov.scot>; Strategic Briefing Unit for Health <SBUHealth@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]** Jenkinson RML (Rachel) <Rachel.Jenkinson@gov.scot>
Subject: Audit Scotland report - NHS in Scotland - publication 24 Feb - for awareness

Cabinet Secretary
Health Ministers
cc: Davie, Comms

Audit Scotland plan to publish their report **NHS in Scotland 2021** on Thursday **24 February**.

As per standard arrangements policy teams have been liaising with the AS team on the information they require and factual accuracy of the now draft report. We will receive **an embargoed copy of the final report on Monday 21 February**, alongside the AS new release.

[Out of scope]

We will also engage with comms colleagues, who will offer media handling advice. Such reports always attract significant media interest and are followed up by the Public Audit Committee.

Please let me know if you require any further information at this stage.
Many thanks,

[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]



ITEM 2

From: [Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Sent: 22 February 2022 15:45

To: [Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social Care <MinisterMWSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport <MinisterPHWHS@gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs Policy <MinisterDP@gov.scot>

Cc: Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; McCallum R (Richard) <Richard.McCallum@gov.scot>; Strategic Briefing Unit for Health <SBUHealth@gov.scot>; Jenkinson RML (Rachel) <Rachel.Jenkinson@gov.scot>; Health and Social Care Directors <DLHSCPHSCD@gov.scot>; Rogers S (Shirley) <Shirley.Rogers@gov.scot>; Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>;

[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Subject: RE: Audit Scotland report - NHS in Scotland - publication 24 Feb - for awareness

FOR INFORMATION

Here is the Audit Scotland news release which will be issued tomorrow morning under embargo.

Kind regards

[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

News release

Embargoed until 00:01 hours, 24 February 2022

Reform of NHS key to pandemic recovery

The Scottish Government must focus on transforming health and social care services to address the growing cost of the NHS and its recovery from Covid-19.

Improving the NHS will be very difficult against the competing demands of the pandemic and an increasing number of other policy initiatives, including plans for a National Care Service.

The health service in Scotland is on an emergency footing and remains under severe pressure.

There is a growing backlog of patients waiting much longer for treatment because of the response needed to Covid-19. That has made workforce planning and delivering on ambitious recruitment plans all the more important. But the Scottish Government has historically struggled to recruit enough people with the right skills.

The NHS's ability to plan remains hindered by a lack of robust and reliable data, including workforce, primary care, community, social care, and health inequalities data. Meanwhile the pandemic has increased the fiscal pressures on the NHS, which remains financially unsustainable. This is despite the Scottish Government allocating £2.9 billion for pandemic-related costs in 2020/21 and committing more funding in 2021/22 and beyond.

Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland, said:

"Reforming the NHS is key to the Scottish Government's pandemic recovery plan and needs to remain a priority. Putting Covid costs to one side, health spending is rising every year, meaning less money for other public services.

"There's now a clear opportunity to do things differently by building on the innovation and collaboration we've seen across the NHS in the last few years.

"For that to happen, our leaders must take the public with them and involve them in the shift from care being delivered in hospitals to much closer to people's homes. But better-informed policy decisions and services won't be possible without better collection and use of data."

[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Notes to Editor:

1. The total health budget for 2020/21 was £18 billion. Excluding Covid-19 funding, the total Scottish Government health budget in 2020/21 was £15.1 billion, compared to £14.5 billion in 2019/20.

2. Responding to the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in significant additional costs. In 2020/21, £2.9 billion of funding was allocated across health and social care for Covid-19-related costs. Of this, £1.7 billion was allocated to NHS boards and integration authorities (IAs). In 2020/21, NHS boards' total funding allocation was £16.3 billion (Exhibit 8, page 32). This is 19 per cent more in cash terms than in 2019/20 (£13.7 billion).

3. 14 out of 22 NHS boards (national and territorial) required additional Scottish Government funding to achieve financial balance in 2020/21. Six NHS boards face a particularly challenging financial position and have, since autumn 2021, been submitting monthly plans to the Scottish Government on how they plan to achieve savings, with the aim of improving their positions by the start of the 2022/23 financial year. These boards are NHS Ayrshire and Arran, NHS Borders, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, NHS Fife, NHS Highland and NHS Orkney.

4. Trends in the demands for hospital services can be seen in Exhibit 4 of the report. One example of the growing backlog is the number of patients waiting for diagnostic tests - 92,239 people in April 2019, rising to 125,557 in September 2021 - a 36.1 per cent change.

5. Audit Scotland has prepared this report for the Auditor General for Scotland. All Audit Scotland reports published since 2000 are available at www.audit-scotland.gov.uk

- The Auditor General appoints auditors to Scotland's central government and NHS bodies; examines how public bodies spend public money; helps them to manage their finances to the highest standards; and checks whether they achieve value for money. The Auditor General is independent and is not subject to the control of the Scottish Government or the Scottish Parliament
- Audit Scotland is a statutory body set up in April 2000, under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. It provides services to the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission for Scotland.

ITEM 3

From: [Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

[out of scope]

[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

From: [Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information] On Behalf Of
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Sent: 23 February 2022 17:59

To: [Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; [Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]; Strategic Briefing Unit for Health <SBUHealth@gov.scot>; McCallum R (Richard) <Richard.McCallum@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; Head of HSCA <HeadofHSCA@gov.scot>; Boyd G (Gregor) <Gregor.Boyd@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>; Chief Nursing Officer <CNO@gov.scot>; Leitch J (Jason) <Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: - media query - various - Audit Scotland Report

Hi [Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Mr Yousaf is content.

Thanks

[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Humza Yousaf MSP

Scottish Government | St Andrews's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Email: cabsechsc@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Sent: 23 February 2022 17:51

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>;

[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under FOISA Section 38**

Personal Information]; Strategic Briefing Unit for Health <SBUHealth@gov.scot>;

McCallum R (Richard) <Richard.McCallum@gov.scot>;; First Minister FMQs

<FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; Head of HSCA <HeadofHSCA@gov.scot>;

Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special

Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

<Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>;

DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer

<CMO@gov.scot>; Chief Nursing Officer <CNO@gov.scot>; Leitch J (Jason)

<Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>;

Subject: - media query - various - Audit Scotland Report

Copying comms on the late shift to issue when Cab Sec has had a chance to consider. Pls reply to this email chain so they are sighted.

Thanks

[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

From: **[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]**

Sent: 23 February 2022 17:51

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>;

[Redacted under FOISA Section 38 Personal Information]

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under FOISA Section 38**

Personal Information]; Strategic Briefing Unit for Health <SBUHealth@gov.scot>;

McCallum R (Richard) <Richard.McCallum@gov.scot>;; First Minister FMQs

<FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; Head of HSCA <HeadofHSCA@gov.scot>;

Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special

Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

<Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>;

DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer

<CMO@gov.scot>; Chief Nursing Officer <CNO@gov.scot>; Leitch J (Jason)

<Jason.Leitch@gov.scot>;

Subject: RE: Bid - GMS - media query - various - Audit Scotland Report

Hi David,

The SG quote for inclusion is below for Cab Sec's consideration.

As it's out under embargo, they add quotes over the course of the day.

Is Cab Sec content to clear?

Health Secretary Humza Yousaf said:

“The pandemic has put our NHS under the most severe pressure in its 73-year existence, and we welcome Audit Scotland’s acknowledgment that health and social care staff have shown extraordinary commitment.

“Staffing levels across NHS Scotland have reached a record high after an increase of over 7,600 whole time equivalent staff in the last year, and we are committing £1 billion in our NHS Scotland Recovery Plan to get more patients seen as quickly as possible and tackle the backlogs of care.

“We also welcome Audit Scotland’s recognition of the actions taken to save lives during the pandemic through the vaccination programme, continued prioritisation of cancer services and Test and Protect. The report shows we worked quickly to support staff wellbeing – introducing a range of measures backed by £12 million investment, in addition to funding the recruitment of additional staff across a variety of health and care services.

“We agree with Audit Scotland that there is a clear opportunity to do things differently and build on the innovation and collaboration shown during the pandemic. That is why our work, including steps to improve data collection, and commitment to invest 20% more – £2.5 billion – in our NHS will support recovery and reform; delivering a more sustainable health and social care system that reduces inequalities and promotes good health.”

Lines to take if asked

Data

“We are looking to make further improvements through our first ever Data Strategy for Health and Social Care for Scotland due in Autumn 2022.”

Finance

“We recognise that there are long-term challenges to the finances of Scotland’s NHS and we are committed to investing in the health service, and ensuring that it is fit for the future. Over this parliament, we have committed to increase investment in our NHS by 20%, and social care by 25%. This will enable critical reforms to our services, including the creation of a National Care Service.”

[out of scope]