

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S6W-15598

This parliamentary question was asked by Mark Griffin MSP, Scottish Labour, for Central Scotland. We have received a related enquiry from local press outlet Cumbernauld News regarding the planned NTC.

“CUMBERNAULD NEWS QUERY

FOI REQUESTS REVEAL PROMISED CUMBERNAULD TREATMENT CENTRE ALREADY TWO YEARS BEHIND SCHEDULE

Central Scotland Labour MSP, Mark Griffin, has demanded assurances from NHS Lanarkshire and the Scottish Government about the future of the National Elective Treatment Centre proposed for Cumbernauld.

This treatment centre, which was announced by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon just three weeks before the 2021 Scottish Parliamentary Election, was initially set to open in 2026.

Yet Labour’s Mark Griffin has uncovered correspondence from NHS Lanarkshire and Scottish Government officials via Freedom of Information suggesting the project is already two years behind schedule, with even spring 2028 seen as a ‘challenging’ date for patients to begin being seen.

Mr Griffin said: **“SNP politicians were falling over themselves to promise this centre by 2026 in the run up to an election but, as is often the case with this Government, they have dropped the ball on delivery. It has taken Freedom of Information requests to reveal this delay. It’s about time Ministers and the Health Board came clean with Cumbernauld and set out when this vital centre will be delivered.**

I urge the Scottish Government and Health Board to explain why this project is already two years behind schedule and provide assurances that there will be no further delays.”

Local health campaigner, Billy Lees, added: **“Cumbernauld has lost a lot of health services due to centralisation over the past 15 years, including our X-ray service and Out of Hours. A lot of people were really pleased when this”**

SG RESPONSE TO CUMBERNAULD NEWS

The National Treatment Centre programme is a huge investment in frontline planned care infrastructure and over the next five years it will provide the single biggest increase in planned care capacity ever created in the NHS.

“The NHS remains under pressure and is still facing its most difficult challenge ever in its 74-year history. We know that the pandemic is not over and that COVID-19 and other pressures will continue to impact the NHS for some time.

Official Sensitive

“Four centres will open this year. NHS Fife and NHS Highland in Spring, and NHS Forth Valley and NHS Golden Jubilee, which will specialise in orthopaedics, including hip and knee surgery, later this year.

“The opening date of NTC Lanarkshire will be determined through the development of the business case being progressed by NHS Lanarkshire. The NTC Programme Board continue to work closely with NHS Lanarkshire to support them through each of the business case stages and to enable an opening of the new centre at the earliest opportunity.”

NTC - Lanarkshire

- Expected to deliver Diagnostics and Minor Treatments – Initial Agreement and Delivery Plan to be developed.

Contact Name: [[Redacted]]