

ANNEX - FOI 202200334370 – Information Released

Copy of reply to healthcare professionals objecting to his decision to cut funding for thrombectomy services in Scotland from Humza Yousaf MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Slàinte agus Cùram Sòisealta
Humza Yousaf BPA/MSP



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John Watson
John.Watson@stroke.org.uk

Our Reference: 202200334090
Your Reference: Thrombectomy

20 December 2022

Dear John Watson,

Thank you for being able to meet with me on 1 December to discuss the issues you raise. I hope you found this meeting helpful. Your input was very much appreciated and gave me an opportunity to hear first-hand about the issues that are concerning you and colleagues.

Thank you also for your letter of 2 December, on behalf of stroke professionals regarding their concerns around the development of the thrombectomy service in Scotland. I would again underline our commitment to improving outcomes from stroke across Scotland, including the introduction of a high quality, clinically safe and effective thrombectomy service in Scotland.

I fully recognise that it is through the hard work of our healthcare professionals that we have seen steps taken towards a national roll-out, particularly during a period of sustained pressures placed on them during the pandemic, and I want to thank them for all the work they have done and continue to do.

The delivery of a national thrombectomy service has, prior to the 2023/24 budget announcement, already received over £16 million of investment. While the financial situation facing the Scottish Government is, by far, the most challenging since devolution as a result of rising inflation, and the ongoing impact of Covid and Brexit, funding will continue to be made available to Health Boards to further expand the thrombectomy service.

I am pleased that the 2023-24 budget has allocated £12.5 million in revenue spending for the further development of a national thrombectomy service in Scotland, to help increase the availability of thrombectomy procedures and maximise the number of eligible patients who can access this important treatment.

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

The Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Mairreannach fo chumhachan Achd Coitcheanachd (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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I look forward to meeting you again in the New Year and I hope that this increase in the thrombectomy revenue spend reassures you that we remain fully committed to the development of thrombectomy and stroke services across Scotland.

Yours sincerely

HUMZA YOUSAF