

## Document 1 – Correspondence – 19 June 2024

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**@Parliament.scot> On Behalf Of Gray N (Neil), MSP  
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 11:59 AM  
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>  
Subject: FW: Cancer treatment as reported by BBC Scotland

-----Original Message-----

From: **[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**  
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 10:59 AM  
To: Gray N (Neil), MSP <Neil.Gray.MSP@Parliament.scot>  
Subject: Cancer treatment as reported by BBC Scotland

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Morning Neil

I am a SNP member from Kirkintilloch

I have listened to a couple of pieces on BBC GMS presented by Laura Maxwell.

The first piece (13/6/24 7.50am) had a doctor from Edinburgh, Head of Radiologists in Scotland, Dr Frances Yuill, and I felt the piece was really unbalanced, was very critical and had no context. LM introduced the piece by saying that "scottish cancer care is in peril as workforce crisis escalates". "The standard of care is dropping rapidly (anonymous doctor)"

LM "these comments from clinicians are just dismal".

No mention of brexit, record funding for NHS in Scotland, no mention that the number of patients being treated is rising by 8% each year. No mention that this is a UK wide problem. I feel I should complain to the BBC about this piece.

Can you comment on this? Do you know Dr Yuill? Is she perhaps supportive of Unionist parties?

Thanks very much

**[redacted S.38(1)(b)]**

## Document 2 – Response to correspondence – 27 June 2024

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Our Reference: 202400420056  
27 June 2024

Dear [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

Thank you for your email of 19 June, to the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care, Neil Gray MSP, regarding the reporting of cancer treatment by BBC Scotland. As a member of the screen and broadcasting policy team I have been asked to reply.

I appreciate you taking the time to email us with your concerns. Broadcasters play a crucial role in supporting press freedom by encouraging media plurality, and providing impartial, editorially independent news. Whilst we do appreciate you raising this matter, the Scottish Government respects and supports the independence of the BBC and programme decisions are ultimately a matter for the broadcaster. The BBC Charter requires the BBC to be independent in promoting its public purposes, including providing impartial news and information.

If you wish to provide feedback to the BBC, you can contact them at BBC Complaints, PO Box 1922, Darlington, DL3 0UR, or online at:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/complaints/complain-online/>

If you remain dissatisfied after completion of the process regarding a complaint or comment with the BBC, you may have a right of appeal to Ofcom, the UK communications regulator. You can contact them at PO Box 1285, Warrington WA1 9GL, by phone on 0300 123 3333 / 020 7981 3040, or online at:  
<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/contact-us>

The Scottish Government expects the BBC to fully represent all the nations and communities of the UK impartially and will continue to urge the broadcaster to deliver all its public purposes for licence payers in Scotland as well as urging broadcasting regulator Ofcom to assess the BBC's performance in delivering for viewers in Scotland, so that audiences in Scotland receive a service that meets the standards expected of the BBC.

I hope the above information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

CFME : Screen and Creative Futures