



Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

By email: Scottish.Ministers@scot.gov

24 May 2024

Dear Cabinet Secretary

NHS Reform Announcement

Earlier in May, we welcomed your announcement to commence a 'national conversation' on NHS reform, with an aim to ensure improvement and sustainability.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland (RCPsychiS) believes that the notion of NHS reform must be embraced by all political parties in Scotland; it presents an ideal opportunity to find political consensus for new policies that can produce the step change required improve and safeguard the delivery of NHS services.

Public Audit Committee Report and RCPsychiS Wishlist

The recent Public Audit Committee (PAC) Report into Adult Mental Health, and Wednesday's debate (motion S6M-13291), clearly demonstrated that mental health services in Scotland are facing unprecedented pressures which are negatively impacting patient care and those who provide them.

I have attached a short recommendations report – our NHS Reform Wishlist – which contains six policies that need to be introduced if the reform agenda is to have any form of impact from a mental health perspective.

These policies – which orientate around maximising NHS funding and supporting the mental health workforce - align with the PAC report findings, and we would like to see these introduced as part of the reform agenda. If taken forward, we believe Scotland would see an uplift in the delivery of mental services in Scotland, whilst providing support for those who provide them.

We are sharing this Wishlist you in advance of the proposed NHS reform debate, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these policies in more detail during our scheduled meeting with you on Thursday 27 June 2024.

Some of these recommendations fall within both your portfolio and that of your supporting Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, Maree Todd MSP. As such, we have copied her into this communication.

We look forward to our meeting in June.

With our very best wishes,
Yours sincerely

Dr Jane Morris
Chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland

Cc Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport