



From the Chair and Vice Chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland's Addictions Faculty

Christina McKelvie MSP
Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

By Email: Scottish.Ministers@gov.scot

3 April 2024

Dear Minister

On behalf of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland, we would like to thank you for providing the keynote address at our recent Addictions Faculty Conference at Dunblane Hydro. The feedback we received from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and we are very grateful for your contribution and commitment to work with us on issues relating to your portfolio.

Drugs and Alcohol Policy in Scotland

We worked closely with your predecessor on matters aligned to addictions psychiatry within the National Mission, and have welcomed a number of policy interventions from the Scottish Government. This is best illustrated by our endorsement of minimum unit pricing, and we are strong and vocal advocates of the Government's ambitions to uprate the level from 50p to 65p.

During your conference address, we noted you are committed to working with us, and we would like to take you up on this offer to discuss some issues outstanding with regard to alcohol and drugs misuse:

- The pursuit of equality of service for Scotland's rural areas, where recruitment is a major issue;
- Improved coordination of prison release and after care;
- The future of MAT funding after the current five-year commitment; and
- The system change required to develop a more responsive and coherent alcohol treatment system.

We believe that all these issues align with the National Mission and HIS Mental Health and Substance Use Protocol Programme, and we look forward to working together with you on these areas to improve services for people and patients in Scotland.

Please let us know of your availability to meet with representatives of the Royal College of Psychiatrists to discuss our priorities via Hew.Edgar@rcpsych.ac.uk.

With our very best wishes,
Yours sincerely

Dr Susanna Galea Singer

Chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland's Addictions Faculty

Dr Seonaid Anderson

Vice Chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland's Addictions Faculty