



From the Chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland and the President Elect of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

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

27 April 2023

Dear Michael Matheson MSP

On behalf of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, we would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as the new Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care.

As you will be aware, the College in Scotland has worked closely with the Mental Health Directorate at the Scottish Government for some time. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can continue to work together on shared priorities to:

- Strengthen Scotland's mental health services, to allow them to meet the growing demand that they face.
- Support Scotland's mental health workforce, to enable them to continue to fulfil their vital roles.
- And bring about parity of esteem between mental and physical health in Scotland, by working towards the Scottish Government's commitment to invest 10% of our frontline NHS budget in mental health.

We believe there is a real opportunity to bring about the change that Scotland needs through the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Scotland, Scotland's first dedicated workforce plan for mental health, and the development of Quality Standards for Adult Secondary Mental Health Services. We look forward to continuing to work together on these and other initiatives to improve the mental health of the people of Scotland.

The College in Scotland is very keen to support you in your important role, specifically with regards to NHS recovery, to ensure that those who need mental health care are able to receive the support that they require.

Could you please let us know of your availability to meet with representatives of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland? We hope to hear from your office soon.

With our very best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Dr Linda Findlay

Chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland

Dr Lade Smith

President Elect of the Royal College of Psychiatrists