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Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP

By email

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Suspension of the Scotland Covid-19 threat level

Dear Convener

I am writing to advise you that the Scottish Ministers have made a decision to suspend the Covid-19 threat level in Scotland. This decision is supported by the Chief Medical Officer.

With concurrent risks affecting the NHS and wider health and social care services, such as high levels of 'flu, Strep A and other winter viruses, the 4 Harms Group takes the view that it is not effective to treat Covid-19 as a separate entity, when this is now just one element of the combined pressure the NHS is under at this time. There is also now the dissonance between the threat from Covid-19 in isolation being assessed as Low at a time when the wider respiratory burden is contributing to an overall pressure on health and social care services that has been as exceptional as it has been in recent weeks. This aligns Scotland with the rest of the UK approach, as the UK alert level is also being suspended this month.

The Scottish Government is committed to continue to track, assess, and report on Covid-19 in Scotland. We have, of course, retained the ability to move to High threat level should data change in the face of a variant of concern and/or advice from the Chief Medical Officer.

Yours sincerely,

HUMZA YOUSAF

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

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