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Our ref: **Action 15 of the Mental Health Strategy 2017-27 – Final Recruitment Data**

12 July 2022

Dear Gillian,

I am writing to you in my role as the Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social Care to update you and the wider membership of the Health, Social Care & Sport Committee on our commitment to recruit an additional 800 mental health workers in key settings under Action 15 of the Mental Health Strategy 2017-27.

The commitment, which ended in March 2022, was to increase the mental health workforce in A&E departments, police station custody suites, GP practices and prisons over a period of 4 years. The range of settings was further extended to include Community settings as well as the Enhanced Mental Health Pathway, a collaboration between NHS 24, Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to improve the care pathways for people experiencing mental illness, distress and poor mental well-being.

I am delighted to let you know that the final number of posts recruited to under Action 15 has significantly exceeded the original commitment, coming in at 958.9 whole time equivalent (WTE) posts – equating to around 120% of the original commitment. I am sure that you and the Committee members will agree that this is a significant step forwards in our efforts to enhance mental health services across Scotland.

Since 2018/19, around £84 million has been allocated to Action 15. It is my intention to ensure that these posts continue to be funded in 2022-23 and beyond, and that we deliver real transformation in the mental health services.

The final Action 15 recruitment figures were published today on the Scottish Government website. Over the next few months officials will engage with Integration Authorities and Health Boards to assess the impact of the Action 15 commitment on services, with a particular focus on service improvements and initiatives in areas of Scotland with high levels of deprivation, which were made possible by this significant investment in the mental health workforce.

I hope that you and your fellow Committee members find this information useful.

Yours Sincerely,

Kevin Stewart

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