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Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

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31 March 2025

Dear Clare

I am writing to you with an update on the work to renew our NHS, further to a speech by the First Minister on 27 January and my answer that day to a related Government Initiated Question (S6W-34287).

In that answer I committed to publishing in March an Operational Improvement Plan, setting out more detail in respect of the commitments made across the following areas:

- improving access to treatment;
- shifting the balance of care;
- improving access to health and social care services through digital and technological innovation; and
- prevention, ensuring we work with people to prevent illness and more proactively meet their needs.

The Operational Improvement Plan has published today and can be accessed at the following weblink. A further Government Initiated Question (S6W-36395) has been answered today to notify publication.

<http://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836914556>

This Plan is the first of three key publications outlining our renewal agenda, to be followed by publication of a population health framework later this spring and then a health and social care service renewal framework before summer recess.

It details the delivery of the specific commitments made on 27 January. Accordingly, it is not a stand-alone plan for the NHS, but instead it builds on the delivery plans of the 22 health boards, prioritising how services will be improved across NHS Scotland. It covers the short

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term, with delivery mainly within 2025-26, although the timeline for some commitments extends later into 2026.

I will report progress against this Plan to the Committee within 2025-26. I hope this update is helpful.

Yours sincerely



NEIL GRAY

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