

Ministear airson Cùram Sòisealta agus Sunnd Inntinn
Tom Arthur BPA



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Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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24 February 2026

Dear Clare

NHS Forth Valley Inspection Report

I am writing to update the Committee on a recent inspection report concerning NHS Forth Valley, and to set out the actions being taken to address issues identified without delay.

The [report](#) by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) (published on 28 January) relates to an unannounced inspection of Forth Valley Royal Hospital as part of the Adult Safe Delivery of Care Inspection programme. This identifies a number of areas requiring improvement including: concerns relating to adult support and protection, incidents of patients absconding or accessing the garden roof space – in some cases while on continuous observations – and matters relating to sexual safety. The report highlighted that ligature assessments were inconsistently completed and did not align with the NHS Forth Valley ligature risk assessment policy. HIS further identified that several Significant Adverse Event Reviews (SAER) were not carried out or completed within the expected timescale of 140 days, with some initial reviews taking up to nine months from the date of the incident.

The Scottish Government takes the findings of this report extremely seriously. My officials have agreed a clear course of action to ensure that NHS Forth Valley responds with the necessary pace, rigour and transparency.

To that end, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care and I recently met with the Chief Executive of NHS Forth Valley to gain assurance that he and his senior team are

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taking forward all of the required improvements arising from the inspections. This included confirmation that:

- a robust action plan is in place and will be implemented;
- that governance and clinical oversight arrangements are being put in place;
- sexual safety is prioritised, including through improved risk assessments;
- that workforce, safety, and quality processes are being reviewed and enhanced where required; and
- learning from this inspection will be embedded across all relevant services.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland will continue to monitor NHS Forth Valley's progress in delivering the required actions and will provide assurance to the Scottish Government on the pace and effectiveness of this work, including undertaking a follow-up inspection and report at the Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

The Director of Mental Health will be meeting with the Forth Valley Chief Executive later this month to review progress and discuss wider performance improvements.

I wish to assure the Committee that we are committed to ensuring that the concerns identified through these inspections are addressed fully and that the necessary improvements are secured for patients, families, and staff. I will provide further updates to the Committee as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely



TOM ARTHUR

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