

23 October 2023

Mr Richard Leonard MSP
Convener
Public Audit Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Convener

When I gave evidence to the committee on 28 September 2023, the committee asked about the impact of the [Emergency Budget Review](#) (EBR) on adult mental health spending. I am writing to confirm that the EBR resulted in delays to progressing some Scottish Government mental health commitments and I have provided further detail below.

As set out in [Scotland's public finances: challenges and risks](#), in November 2022, £615 million of savings were identified through the EBR, most of which (£400 million) were changes within the health portfolio to support the proposed NHS pay offer. As set out in the [adult mental health](#) report, this included a reduction of £38 million in the mental health directorate budget, and a reduction of £65 million in the primary care budget.

The adult mental health report identified that the EBR had an impact on a number Scottish Government mental health commitments. It delayed progress towards:

- increasing the number of mental health workers and community link workers in primary care (paragraph 32)
- establishing a dedicated NHS mental health workforce statistical publication (paragraphs 85 and 86)
- increasing mental health funding by 25 per cent by 2026/27 (paragraphs 73 and 92).

I hope you find this additional information useful.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Boyle
Auditor General for Scotland