Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Slàinte agus Cùram Sòisealta Neil Gray MSP/BPA



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Our Reference: 202400444659

Your Reference: Letter from Alex Rowley MSP: Funding for Lochgelly and Kincardine Health Centres

18 December 2024

Dear Alex,

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 2024, in which you sought an update on Lochgelly and Kincardine Health Centres.

There is continued challenge and uncertainty in the capital funding position. High levels of construction inflation has permanently increased the cost of delivering infrastructure and this, combined with the reductions to our capital funding that we have seen in recent years, means we cannot afford all our capital commitments or all projects we might wish to commit to.

As we await the outcome of the UK Government's Spending Review in 2025, our longer-term investment plans remain under review. All due consideration will be given as to which projects are affordable and deliverable and can be included within our revised infrastructure investment plan pipeline.

However, recognising the importance of NHS infrastructure, we are working with all health boards, including NHS Fife to develop a whole-system NHS infrastructure plan.

We know that the NHS estate is aging and that it is not affordable to replace everything as quickly as we might like to. This position that is not unique to Scotland therefore we must make better use of our existing resources to support reform and improvement, supported by strategic investment across our estate.

The whole-system NHS infrastructure plan will consider infrastructure needs for the whole of Scotland and support continued safe operation of existing facilities and well as determination of longer-term

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investment priorities. In the context of a very challenging financial position, this is a positive and practical approach which reflects on the needs for the whole of Scotland.

I trust that this information is useful.

Yours sincerely,

NEIL GRAY

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