



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Beatrice Wishart MSP  
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Shetland

Mr Humza Yousaf MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care  
Scottish Government  
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Dear Humza,

As you will be aware Shetland's hospital, the Gilbert Bain Hospital in Lerwick, has been operating in its current form since 1961. Despite various workarounds with extensions and re-configurations, it has over the last half century outgrown its space and 1950s design. In 2019 NHS Shetland's Head of Estates was reported as indicating that it was not fit for purpose and that "the constrained site provides little opportunity for expansion and little or no variation to the layout possible in an attempt to come close to achieving the modern hospital requirements of today".

In the past islanders have raised money for local provision, such as the CAT scanner and more recently for an MRI scanner. Unfortunately, the MRI scanner has not yet been installed and Shetland patients who require an MRI scan have to travel to Aberdeen. This is just one issue of many that needs to be addressed to bring the hospital up to modern standards.

I would appreciate it if you could outline the Scottish Government's approach to upgrading hospital provision in Shetland and, specifically, if you would indicate when Shetland will have a new-build hospital fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

Beatrice Wishart MSP