



Beatrice Wishart MSP
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Our Reference: 202100244920

Your Reference: Ref: BW2276

12 October 2021

Dear Beatrice Wishart MSP,

Thank you for your letter of 28 September 2021 on behalf of your constituent in relation to the Gilbert Bain Hospital in Lerwick. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf, has asked me to reply on his behalf because I am the interim Deputy Director for Health Infrastructure and lead on the policy advice for this issue. As I'm sure you will understand, Mr Yousaf is experiencing a significant increase in correspondence at present due to the COVID-19 pandemic and he has asked me to assure you that he continues to value the time you have taken to raise this issue with him and he hopes you will find the information in my reply helpful.

I would first like to thank you for raising this issue and to reassure you that I, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, and the Scottish Government are keenly aware of the need for an upgraded facility to replace the current Gilbert Bain Hospital.

I can inform you that NHS Shetland is currently in the latter stages of the development of a Strategic Assessment linking the need for change identified in the recently refreshed NHS Shetland Clinical and Care Strategy to the benefits to be gained and how these benefits link to NHS Scotland's Strategic Investment Priorities. The Strategic Assessment will inform the impact on existing assets and any requirement for refurbishment, expansion or new build.

The draft SA is due to be considered by the NHS Shetland Clinical Strategy and Strategic Assessment Programme Board at their next meeting in November of this year, followed by submission for approval by the NHS Shetland Board. It will then be submitted to the SG Capital Investment Group in early 2022 for their consideration and approval. Subject to this submission being successful, work is already on-going to outline and establish the Investment Appraisal Project Team and scope of work.

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This is line with the process laid out in the Scottish Capital Investment Manual, whereby territorial Boards such as NHS Shetland identify priorities for significant capital investment and to make a proposal for funding to the Scottish Government's Capital Investment Group. This process empowers territorial Boards to use their expertise and knowledge of local service needs while also ensuring that there is robust governance of projects and that they are safe and provide good value for money.

I hope this response has been helpful to you.

Yours sincerely



Alan Morrison
HIIPPE : HEAD OF DIVISION

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