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Chair, Health and Social Care Scotland

Ms Rachael King
Chair, IJB Chairs/Vice-Chairs Network

04 March 2025

Professor Soumen Sengupta
Ms Rachael King

Thank you for your letter regarding the financial position of our Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) and Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs).

We sympathise with the pressure the social care sector is facing and that is one of the reasons that the 2025-26 Budget prioritised both the Local Government Settlement and the Health & Social Care portfolio with both receiving record funding allocations despite continued fiscal challenges.

The 2025-26 budget includes over £15 billion for the Local Government Settlement and almost £2.2 billion for social care and integration – exceeding our commitment to increase funding by 25% by almost £350 million. It also includes £289 million of undirected general Revenue alongside £37.1 million of undirected General Capital Grant. At £21.7 billion, the overall financial envelope for Health and Social Care also reached record levels.

I'm sure I do not need to remind you that whilst the Scottish Government has overall policy responsibility for health and social care support policy in Scotland, decisions on how to deliver services to local communities are ultimately for integration authorities and locally elected representatives to make.

But beyond the headlines, it will be important for us all to ensure there is complete financial transparency and I note that the most recent quarterly data report my officials received from IJBs via Chief Finance Officers, is for Quarter 2 2024-25 and is incomplete. Reliable data is key to helping us understand the issues and I am aware my officials are engaging with IJB CFOs on how best we can work together to improve the data we receive. It is imperative that we receive accurate data at the right time to support decision making around funding and I will ensure that my officials work with you on the best approach to this for the coming year.

I note your request to invite members of the other IJB professional networks to join our meeting next week. The meeting you refer to is already a joint SG and COSLA meeting and on that

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basis Councillor Kelly and COSLA officials are already invited. My officials will extend the invitation to the executive groups of the IJB chairs/vice-chairs and chief finance officers' networks.

I look forward to a fruitful and constructive discussion.

Yours sincerely,



NEIL GRAY

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