

Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery Health and Social Care
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ath-shlànachadh NHS, Slàinte agus Cùram Sòisealta
Michael Matheson MSP/BPA



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Ian Murray MP
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Our Reference: 202300372509
Your Reference: Conan Doyle Medical Centre

6 September 2023

Dear Ian,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 August 2023 regarding concerns relating to access to GP services. I am responding in my role as the Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care.

The challenge of providing necessary GP cover in areas of population growth is something that I too am keen to resolve, and I appreciate NHS Lothian's efforts so far in looking into solutions for the Gilmerton / Liberton area. To date, these plans have not included a request for additional capital funding support from Scottish Government's health budget. This would have required a business case submission to Scottish Government's NHS Capital Investment Group for review, which has not happened and thus we have not withdrawn funding.

It is likely that NHS Lothian hoped to fund this project from their own internal capital budget, which is likely to be under pressure from other competing priorities across the whole system, and the common challenge of rising costs across the construction industry. It would therefore be worth speaking to NHS Lothian to hear from them on their decision around this and solutions they are proposing by post, or by phone on 0131 242 1000.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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I hope my reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



MICHAEL MATHESON

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