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Michael Matheson MSP
Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Scottish Government Reference:
202300372509

11 September 2023

Dear Mr Matheson,

Re: Conan Doyle Medical Centre and GP services in Liberton and Gilmerton

I am responding to your most recent letter regarding GP services in Liberton and Gilmerton date 6th September 2023.

It is incredibly disingenuous to suggest that the dearth of available GP services in Edinburgh South is somehow the responsibility of NHS Lothian.

The business case for the development of a medical practice as part of the Liberton Campus development, was scheduled to go to the NHS Lothian Capital Investment Group (LCIG) on 23rd February 2023, on the way to submission to the Scottish Government. The case was put before the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board and was supported by them.

In early February NHS Lothian withdrew the paper as a direct result of advice received from Scottish Government, that a 'pause' with immediate effect had been imposed on all NHS capital development which had not already been legally committed to.

To direct me and my constituents to NHS Lothian to find answers to the GP crisis is facetious, after NHS Lothian warned over a decade ago of 'failure' in Edinburgh GP services if the Scottish Government did not step in.

Edinburgh's population has grown by 8,000+ each year over the last decade, partly facilitated by Scottish Government permitting large scale developments at appeal, even when the council has raised questions about how public services will keep up with population rises.

Your government has never provided increases to capital budgets in Edinburgh

IAN MURRAY MP
Labour Member of Parliament for Edinburgh South

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South in line with population growth.

According to NHS Lothian's own predictions, Edinburgh's population will have increased to at least 630,000 by 2033, requiring six new GP services just to accommodate new arrivals.

This will not be achieved when your government refuses to take responsibility for its own inaction and passes the buck to health boards. So rather than wrongly blaming others who are trying to resolve this crisis, maybe you can lay out what steps you are taking to deliver the new practices we need locally

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

Ian Murray MP
Member of Parliament for Edinburgh South
Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland