

Constituency office  
31 Minto Street  
Edinburgh  
EH9 2BT

0131 662 4520  
[ian.murray.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ian.murray.mp@parliament.uk)  
[www.ianmurraymp.com](http://www.ianmurraymp.com)



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

2 October 2023

Dear Mr Matheson,

**Re: Funding for a new GP service in Liberton**

I am writing concerning your letter to me of 27<sup>th</sup> September.

Thank you for outlining the approval procedure for capital projects within NHS Lothian, though to respond with that note avoids the question asked of you and insults the intelligence of my office and I, those working for NHS Lothian and my 20,000 constituents who are left unable to register with a GP service.

Whether the authority lies with NHS Lothian to approve a new GP service is beside the point and not what my letter asked about. The stumbling block remains that the £5.5m needed for a GP service in Liberton has not been provided by the Scottish Government and was pulled in February of this year. The Scottish Government clearly stated that it would not fund any capital projects and NHS Lothian were not to bring any forward.

If NHS Lothian are able to approve the project themselves, then would the funding be forthcoming from the Scottish Government to support a new GP service in Liberton? If this is the case, should NHS Lothian go ahead and approve the project?

There are two projects in South Edinburgh where one has a full business case approval and the other a draft approval. Why, do you think, are these two projects not being progressed?

I would be grateful for a response that answers the questions I'm posing on behalf of my constituents rather than you answering another question that deflects blame for your government's failings.

Yours sincerely,

**IAN MURRAY MP**  
Labour Member of Parliament for Edinburgh South

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*Ian Murray*

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