

Sent by Email

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Date 5 October 2023
Your Ref
Our Ref CC/CB/GS

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Dear Mr Murray

LIBERTON HEALTH CENTRE

Thank you for your email of 2 October 2023 regarding the provision of primary care services in Liberton and forwarding on the Cabinet Secretary's letter to you.

The Cabinet Secretary is correct to state that NHS Lothian has a delegated expenditure limit of £10m for any single project, and to state that the current estimate for the Liberton project is a cost of £5.5m. However, I should be clear that the direction from the Scottish Government to NHS Lothian has been to target our circa £25m annual allocation to backlog maintenance and equipment replacement. To put this into perspective, the cost of replacing medical equipment such as endoscopes and scanners for us this year is circa £17m, before we begin to tackle issues of building maintenance and upgrading for fire safety and the like. The £25m is therefore more than fully committed on sustaining the safety of what we have in place.

You will have seen Audit Scotland's report last week on infrastructure spending in Scotland and the need to adopt a risk-based approach linked to clear planning and objectives, and this endorses the approach NHS Lothian has taken. Given the constraints on capital availability, we are currently unable to adopt any other approach.

The Scottish Government has asked all Boards to provide prioritised lists of all projects they wish to undertake over the next 15-20 years. We have a clear process to complete this prioritisation as described in our public Board papers for our February 2023 meeting (item 9 at [NHS-Lothian-Board-Papers-08-February-2023.pdf \(nhslothian.scot\)](#)) and we intend to bring the outcome of this to our December Board, in order to meet the Scottish Government deadline of 31 December 2023. Our prioritisation includes circa £200m for circa 23 primary care premises, as well as the Edinburgh Cancer Centre, the National Treatment Centre at St John's Hospital, the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, and the Princess Alexandria Eye Pavilion.



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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Calum Campbell
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

You can see more on how this all fits into our longer-term strategic framework at [Strategic Development Framework – Strategies \(nhslothian.scot\)](https://www.nhs.uk/lothian/strategic-development-framework-strategies), which outlines what our whole system needs to do over the next five years.

I have copied this to the Cabinet Secretary's office and to Alan Morrison, Deputy Director of Health Finance, at the Scottish Government

Yours sincerely



CALUM CAMPBELL

Chief Executive