



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jenni Minto MSP  
Minister for Public Health and Women's Health  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG



Ref: DC-BD19220

18 February 2025

Dear Jenni,

### **Palliative and End of Life Care**

I was pleased to hear of the increased funding for hospices within the Scottish Government Budget. As you know, this is something I have been campaigning on for some time. Whilst the increases are welcome and will make a positive difference- particularly around agenda for change- more needs to be done to place the sector on a sustainable financial footing.

I would welcome further details as to how the Scottish Government intend to work in partnership with hospices in this endeavour. It would also be very helpful to know the Scottish Government's latest thoughts on entrenching an explicit right to palliative care in statute.

At the meeting of the Cross Party Group on Palliative Care in September 2024, Kenny Steel - CEO Highland Hospice and Michael Loynd - Macmillan Clinical Programme Manager, End of Life Care Together, NHS Highland gave a presentation on the End of Life Care Together Programme in the Highlands and the report Supporting end of life care in NHS Highland: Accounting for Value.

The End of Life Care Together report appeared to demonstrate that the palliative care helpline and response service improved the quality of experience for those with palliative care needs and their families. It also indicated clear cost savings. I would be interested to know if the Highland model is replicated- or a similar model operates- elsewhere. Such innovation should be embedded, mainstreamed and rolled out as appropriate as part of a wider service redesign for palliative and end of life needs support.

I do appreciate that what works in one part of the country may not work in another. That said, it is important that any national health and care standards (or indeed rights) relating to palliative and end of life care have a consistency to ensure the highest levels of care for all.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Doris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot over the 'i' in Doris.

**Bob Doris MSP**

MSP for Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn constituency (SNP)