



T : 0300 244 4000  
E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Bob Doris MSP  
David.Cameron2@parliament.scot

Our Reference: 202500453350

Your Reference: Palliative and End of Life Care (Case Ref: BD19220)/DC

17 March 2025

Dear Bob Doris MSP,

Thank you for your letter of 18 February 2025 regarding palliative and end of life care.

As you know, the Scottish Government highly values the vital support independent hospices provide to people and their families, as well as supporting other health and social care services and teams delivering palliative care and care around dying.

We are committed to ensuring that everyone who needs it can access timely and high-quality palliative they need, whenever and wherever that is needed, which may include hospice care.

As you note in your letter, I am pleased to say that the Scottish Budget 2025-26 identified funding of £5 million to help support independent hospices deliver pay parity with Agenda for Change (AfC) levels for 2025-26. My Officials are already undertaking work to explore the mechanisms for providing this funding, while respecting local commissioning arrangements. My officials continue to take forward positive discussions with the Chair of the Scottish Hospice Leadership Group.

We also remain committed to working with the hospice sector and Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) to develop a new national funding framework, which will support IJBs, and independent hospices to agree sustainable funding, planning, and commissioning arrangements to meet their local populations' needs. We will shortly be creating a partnership group to drive this work forward.

This is one of the actions set out in our draft Palliative Care Strategy, "Palliative Care Matters for All" which will improve strategic leadership, partnerships, and accountability at national, regional and local levels and across statutory and third sector, as well as integrated service planning, commissioning and

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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



funding of specialist palliative care.

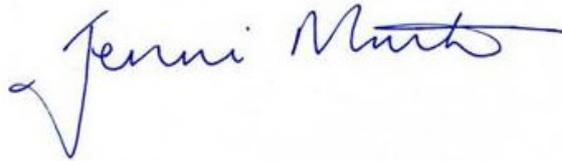
The Scottish Government is strongly committed to equitable access to palliative care and care around dying. That's why we published a new draft palliative care strategy for consultation in October 2024 which will help ensure people have access to high quality palliative care wherever and whenever it is needed. The consultation closed in January 2025 and analysis of the responses is being undertaken to help inform the final strategy.

It may also be helpful to share that the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care met with representatives of Highland Hospice earlier this year to hear more about the good work they have undertaken with NHS Highland and End of Life Care Together partners to improve the care and support available. Through the auspices of the palliative care strategy, we want to share examples of good work such as that done by Highland Hospice, with IJB colleagues to support them to work more closely with third sector colleagues to help ensure people get the right care in the right place at the right time.

In your letter you also note plans to make a right to palliative care in statute. We are aware that Miles Briggs MSP is taking forward a draft proposal on a Right to Palliative Care (Scotland) Bill which if passed, would entrench an explicit right to palliative care. The Scottish Government will review the substance of these proposals and the consultation feedback and will respond at the appropriate juncture.

I hope this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



**JENNI MINTO**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1  
3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™**  
We invest in people Silver

