



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Shona Robison MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Ref: DC-BD21687

9 February 2026

Dear Shona,

Hospice Funding & Scottish Budget

As Convener and Vice-Convener of the Cross Party Group on Palliative Care, we are reaching out to you as the Scottish Budget considerations are progressing.

We have recently been contacted by Hospice UK regarding the ongoing discussions for the Scottish Budget 2026/27. We are told that discussions have been constructive, which is to be welcomed. We also understand that the hospice sector has a meeting this week with Jenni Minto MSP, Minister for Public Health and Women's Health.

One area of concern relates to ensuring the NHS Agenda for Change pay awards is reflected in this year's budget, and indeed future budgets in the years ahead. We're told that there is an initial £6.5m in the draft budget for hospices, which consists of £5m recurring from last year's budget and an additional £1.5m, which is said to be an estimation due to time constraints.

However, Hospice UK have calculated that the cost to the hospice sector to match the NHS pay awards for 2026/27 would be £4.4m rather than £1.5m, meaning at present a shortfall of £2.9m.

Given the Scottish Government's ongoing commitments on aligning the pay uplifts for both NHS and hospice staff, we would ask that the Scottish Government does all it can to agree a revision that reflects the Agenda for Change uplift in the NHS.

We would also welcome an update on any ongoing work by the Scottish Government to review the funding allocation for hospices more substantially, to better support hospices in addressing the significant pressures on their cost base, something that may be impacting on their sustainability.

We understand that following the Scottish Government committing to a new national framework for hospice care- most recently in the new palliative care strategy- some helpful discussions have taken place with civil servants. However, establishing a formal partnership group to progress matters has been delayed due to winter pressures.

Any clarity you may be able to provide on a timescale for such a partnership group being established, and any other information you may be able to share, would be appreciated.

We have copied in Ms Minto given her Ministerial remit in hospice-related matters.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



Bob Doris MSP

MSP for Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn Constituency (SNP)



Marie McNair MSP

MSP for Clydebank and Milngavie Constituency (SNP)

cc: Jenni Minto MSP, Minister for Public Health and Women's Health