

Mr John Connaghan
Chairman NHS Lothian
VIA EMAIL

16 March 2023

Dear Mr Connaghan,

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board. At our meeting on 28th February, the board considered the standard business case for General Medical Services Provision in South-East Edinburgh. Specifically, this was the proposition to provide some much needed additional primary care capacity as part of the development of the Liberton High School Campus. The board were extremely supportive of the proposal and consequently dismayed to hear that the development is now placed on hold pending further clarity on the availability of capital funding.

Whilst we appreciate the requirement for spending restrictions in almost every part of the public realm, the implications of this position for South Edinburgh are hugely concerning for the board. The significant house building which has taken place, particularly since 2018, has resulted directly in 5 practices in the Liberton-Gilmerton area of the city having closed their lists to new patients. Previously, during a period which has seen c80,000 more people come to live in Edinburgh, we never had a medical practice list closed. Local medical practice teams have responded to the mismatch of population and premises capacity with great flexibility and imagination, absorbing more of the additional population than they were comfortable with. They did this in the knowledge that despite the time-lag, every opportunity to expand capacity was being explored and would be grasped at the appropriate time. The opportunity to build a new practice as part of the Liberton School campus was therefore extremely welcome and we have been grateful to our partners, NHS Lothian and the City of Edinburgh Council, who have both been flexible in marrying the different governance routes to secure capital investment. The current situation is that the Council has committed to the development which starts construction in two months' time, whilst the NHS is not in a position to progress.

As I say, this is particularly disappointing as the area of Edinburgh this proposed expansion would serve includes high levels of deprivation and is geographically adjacent to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. The consequences of large numbers of new population being forced to rely on emergency services, will take us further away from the balance we are all seeking to re-establish.

I am aware that a meeting is currently being scheduled between officers from the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership and NHS Lothian and I would ask you to encourage your team to work with us in exploring all possible avenues to allow this scheme to progress.

Yours sincerely



Tim Pogson
Chair, Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

Mr Humza Yousaf
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
VIA EMAIL

16 March 2023

Dear Mr Yousaf,

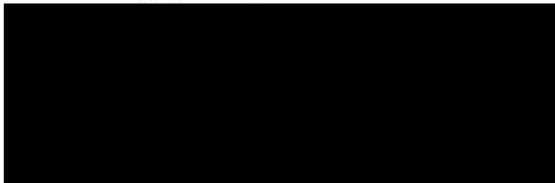
I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, specifically to raise our concerns about the delays in delivering much needed new primary care capacity required to deal with the significant population increases in Edinburgh. You will no doubt be aware of the significant pressure on primary care services and that this is exacerbated by the current lack of capital which means we are unable to provide appropriate facilities to meet the level of demand.

It is in this context that I wanted to raise with you some of the specific issues we are facing in the capital city. At our meeting on 28th February, the board considered the standard business case for General Medical Services Provision in South-East Edinburgh. Specifically, this was the proposition to provide some much needed additional primary care capacity through the construction of a new GP practice building as part of the development of the Liberton High School Campus. The board were extremely supportive of the proposal and consequently dismayed to hear that NHS Lothian has now advised that the development has been placed on hold pending further clarity on the availability of capital funding.

Whilst we appreciate the requirement for spending restrictions in almost every part of the public realm, the implications of this position for South Edinburgh are hugely concerning for the board. The significant house building which has taken place, particularly since 2018, has resulted directly in 5 practices in the Liberton-Gilmerton area of the city having closed their lists to new patients. Previously, during a period which has seen c80,000 more people come to live in Edinburgh, we never had a medical practice list closed. Local medical practice teams have responded to the mismatch of population and premises capacity with great flexibility and imagination, absorbing more of the additional population than they were comfortable with. They did this in the knowledge that despite the time-lag, every opportunity to expand capacity was being explored and would be grasped at the appropriate time. The opportunity to build a new practice as part of the Liberton School campus was therefore extremely welcome and we have been grateful to our partners, NHS Lothian and the City of Edinburgh Council, who have both been flexible in marrying the different governance routes to secure capital investment. The current situation is that the Council has committed to the development which starts construction in two months' time, whilst the NHS is not in a position to progress. As I say, this is particularly disappointing as the area of Edinburgh this proposed expansion would serve includes high levels of deprivation and is geographically adjacent to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. The consequences of large numbers of new population being forced to rely on emergency services, will take us further away from the balance we are all seeking to re-establish.

As well as the particular circumstances I've outlined above, my board were keen to ensure that you were appraised of the position in Edinburgh more generally. Our population is growing at a rate of c8,000 p.a, which puts huge strain on the facilities we have, many of which are already not ideal for delivering first class care. Our modelling has indicated that, to address the twin challenges of an ageing infrastructure and an expanding population NHS Lothian require investment of c£90 over the medium term (5-10 years). I would welcome the opportunity to engage with you and your officials to explore how we can deliver this requirement for the people of Edinburgh.

Yours sincerely



Tim Pogson
Chair, Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

Sent by Email

Cllr.Tim.Pogson@edinburgh.gov.uk

Date 12 April 2023

Your Ref
Our Ref JC/JL/GS

Enquiries to John Connaghan
Extension 35808
Direct Line 0131 465 5808
Email john.connaghan@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk
EA georgia.sherratt@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Cllr Pogson

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES PROVISION IN SOUTH-EAST EDINBURGH

Thank you for your letter dated 16 March 2023 about the planned new general practice premises at Liberton High School campus.

All NHS boards are required to have a governance process in place for the approval of projects requiring capital funding. The Initial Agreement for the new GP premises on the Liberton High School Campus was agreed in March 2022, and both NHS and Edinburgh council colleagues have subsequently worked together to develop the Standard Business Case. All parties have worked together in good faith to progress plans and with the awareness that the Standard Business Case still needed approval by the NHS to progress.

At the present time Scottish Government have instructed all NHS boards to pause new capital projects until further direction is provided. Scottish Government requires each Board to carry out a board-wide capital prioritisation exercise and to return this to SG by the end of this calendar year. We should have clarity on how available funding matches priorities shortly after that point.

I am very aware of the challenges for new patients wishing to register with a GP practice, particularly in South-East Edinburgh. List closures are dynamic, and we currently have two practices with closed lists to new patients, we anticipate this may increase again over coming months and we are attempting to manage that risk. While we have not had formally closed lists prior to 2022, this is due to a process change we have implemented recently to follow the contractual framework. Previously we have had many practices with informally 'restricted' lists.

We are closely monitoring the situation and patients should continue to try to register with their local practice where lists are open, although in some cases it may take longer than usual to register. A primary care enquiry inbox

loth.primarycareenquiries@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk) can provide advice and potentially assign patients who are struggling to register with a practice.

We are also finalising our updated strategic programme Initial Agreement for general practice infrastructure for submission to Scottish Government that has encompassed priorities from across the four Lothian HSCPs. This sets out the infrastructure needed to provide for existing and new population demand over the next 10 years. However, again this is dependent on capital funding availability from Scottish Government.

Several meetings have already taken place between EHSCP and capital finance colleagues, as well as meetings with CEC colleagues, and we are exploring all possible options within the current funding constraints to progress provision of a general practice premise at the Liberton High School Campus.

The Chief Executive and his team are happy to continue to work with you on making this important investment a reality.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Professor John Connaghan.

PROFESSOR JOHN CONNAGHAN CBE
Chairman

Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery Health and Social Care
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ath-shlànachadh NHS, Slàinte agus Cùram Sòisealta
Michael Matheson MSP/BPA



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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

Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership
debbie.adams@edinburgh.gov.uk

Our Reference: 202300347889
Your Reference: Additional Primary Care Provision in Edinburgh

26 April 2023

Dear Mr Pogson,

Thank you for your letter to Humza Yousaf MSP, now First Minister of Scotland. Given changes within Cabinet and my appointment to Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care I will respond to your email outlining your concern over delays to deliver additional primary care capacity in Edinburgh, and in particular to the South West area of the city.

I recognise that the growth in population in Edinburgh creates a need for investment in healthcare facilities in Edinburgh and I understand the Board's disappointment that the NHS is not in a position to progress the construction of a new GP practice building in Liberton. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, your officials and clinical staff to hear first hand of the pressures that population growth is creating for health and care services in South Edinburgh.

The Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan sets out the government's infrastructure priorities for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, and is available online at: [A National Mission with Local Impact: Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/infrastructure-investment-plan-2021-22-to-2025-26/pages/introduction.aspx). However, since this publication there have been some major developments which has affected the Scottish Government's ability to fund capital projects: firstly, the amount of capital grant from the UK Government over the next two years was lower than expected; and secondly, construction costs have increased quickly and significantly.

Consequently we are focusing healthcare infrastructure spending on the priority projects identified in that plan, which for NHS Lothian is the National Treatment Centre and an upgrade of the existing Edinburgh Cancer Centre. In addition, NHS Lothian is progressing other key projects, including a new
Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver



Eye Hospital and a new Regional Specialist Cancer Centre at the Western General Hospital.

In terms of preparing for the period beyond 2025-26, an exact timeline has not been agreed for publication of the next Infrastructure Investment Plan for 2026 and the following 5 years, but in line with previous iterations of the plan, I would expect it to be published in late 2025.

I believe it is important that Health Boards have a capital investment plan which balances the needs for investment across all parts of the system and I am happy to meet with you to better understand the infrastructure challenges your organisation is facing.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



MICHAEL MATHESON

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

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver

