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Mr David Crichton
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Dear David

I am writing to you following the NHS Health Scotland Self-Assessment discussion on 23 November 2018. As this is the final year of NHS Health Scotland as a Board, we agreed that it would be proportionate not to have a formal Annual Review, but instead to conduct the self-assessment discussion of your work at this public Board meeting. You agreed to include any points emerging from this discussion in your 2019/20 Delivery Plan, and to consider how these points may be included in wider Public Health Reform and Public Health Scotland work, as appropriate.

I would like to pass on my thanks to Board members for a successful meeting.

As you know, both Roddy Duncan and I attended the meeting and, based on our conclusions from the discussions, I offer the following feedback and recommendations.

I recognise that the organisation continues to do a lot of genuinely critical work, in particular over the last year around ACEs, the Place Standard and around the evaluation of Minimum Unit Pricing. The Scottish Government is pleased with the work of NHS Health Scotland and we recognise the crucial role which the organisation plays in driving health improvement forward in Scotland.

You outlined the challenges that the organisation has encountered in engaging with other organisations both within and outwith healthcare. It is important that NHS Health Scotland maintains its efforts to collaborate with others and continues to 'push'. You noted, in particular, your ambition to ensure that your relationship with NHS Scotland is focussed on 'health' rather than 'healthcare'. I think this is an important point of principle that you need to take forward in preparing the ground for Public Health Scotland.

You are now well into a period of major organisational change as the shape and form of Public Health Scotland is being developed. This has clearly presented challenges for you and your staff, however, it is important to recognise that you and your Board have continued to deliver on your priorities, while allowing for sufficient flexibility within your resources to support work on Public Health Reform.

As was discussed, supporting the resilience of NHS Health Scotland staff during the period of transition and beyond will be critical and I encourage you to maintain the engagement that was outlined during discussion.

I know that the Public Health Reform team leading work in this area is regularly engaging closely with NHS Health Scotland, and I am grateful for the support and co-operation which they receive. It will be important in the coming year, as Public Health Scotland is established, to maintain the flexibility which the organisation has shown towards supporting the work of Public Health Reform.

I would like to thank you and your Board, and the staff of NHS Health Scotland, for their continued commitment and hard work over the last year.



GARETH BROWN
Head of Health Protection Division