

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC AUDIT COMMITTEE TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, DATED 30 JUNE 2014

AUDITOR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (AGS) AND ACCOUNTS COMMISSION REPORT – SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT (SDS)

The Committee received oral evidence from the AGS regarding the above report at its Committee meeting on 25 June 2014. The Official Report of that meeting will be available from 6 pm on Friday 27 June at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/29860.aspx>

At that meeting the Committee agreed to seek written evidence from the Scottish Government on two of that report's recommendations.

Paragraph 31 of the report and page 8 recommends that the Scottish Government work with COSLA, the Association of Directors of Social Work and other key national partners to provide guidance and share learning in relation to the implementation of option 2 of SDS (see Exhibit 1 of the SDS report).

The Committee would therefore welcome further information on the Scottish Government's approach to developing and reviewing this guidance to take account of developing practices. We also seek clarification of the extent to which the Scottish Government will provide guidance on the interpretation of the rules and regulations relating to option 2 to support local authorities to be less cautious in their approach to implementing this option.

The Committee noted that the Scottish Government is currently developing a monitoring and evaluation strategy, including a set of indicators for councils to use to monitor and report on SDS implementation locally. The Committee would welcome clarification of the extent to which the Scottish Government will provide, at a national level, an evaluation of the outcomes achieved by the transformation funding as well as how it proposes to measure, monitor and report regularly on the progress in implementing of SDS.

In addition, the Committee requests further information from the Scottish Government on:

- whether it will report regularly, over the duration of SDS, on the total number of individuals whose care needs are reviewed in the context of SDS; as well as those who take up each option offered under SDS;
- the measures and specific outcomes by which the Scottish Government will determine whether SDS is a success, including any measures which demonstrate whether the policy has improved the quality of people's lives.

I would welcome a response to this letter by close on Thursday 31 July 2014. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Clerks on 0131 348 5236 or by email at: pa.committee@scottish.parliament.uk

Yours sincerely

Hugh Henry MSP
Public Audit Committee Convener