

PE1698/R

Scottish Government correspondence to Rhoda Grant MSP dated 14 June 2019

At the meeting of the Public Petitions Committee on 9 May, I offered to write to you to provide further explanation of the costs of providing rural general practice and on immunisation rates.

With regard to the costs of providing rural general practice, I attach a copy of my follow up letter to the Public Petitions Committee which sets out in some detail how we arrived at the Scottish Workload Formula ("SWF"), introduced in 2018. It explains how the SWF provides a better match between resources and population need and in particular how the measure of workload used to estimate the SWF reflects the number of diagnoses of ill-health and not the number of appointments.

In terms of vaccine uptake statistics, these are published on the Health Protection Scotland website. Provisional data suggests that influenza vaccine uptake amongst people over 65 in Scotland remains stable at 73.7% in both 2017/18 and 2018/19. The most recent validated statistics for seasonal flu uptake are from 2017/18 and are available via the link below. This data is set out in a 'dashboard' format which allows for comparison at Health Board level: <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/influenza/> (seasonal influenza vaccine uptake data visualisation). The 2018/19 figures, which will allow comparison at a Board level, will be published later this year.

As we move forward with Phase 2 of the GP contract, we remain committed to maintaining and strengthening rural general practice and will continue to engage with Sir Lewis Ritchie's Remote and Rural General Practice Working Group and with the public and profession more widely.