



By email:

18th May 2023

Dear Steve,

Responding to the Health and Social Care Select Committee report on autonomy and accountability of Integrated Care Systems (ICS).

The Department welcomes the report from the Health and Social Care Select Committee on the autonomy and accountability of ICSs and all of the work you and your committee have put into developing it. I would like to acknowledge the importance of the committee's findings and recommendations in ensuring that ICSs are delivering for their populations.

Now that both your report and the Hewitt review have been published, I have been considering how best to respond to both in a way that is most useful for the public, Parliament and the health and care system. I hope you will agree that providing a comprehensive and joined-up response to both reports on a single timetable is likely to be the best way ahead. In order to do justice to both reports that would, however, mean taking some more time than would have been needed were we solely responding to the Committee's report.

The Department therefore intends to respond to both these reports before the summer parliamentary recess which is, of course, later than the 30th May. I would be happy to discuss this further with you if helpful, and will keep you updated on our progress.

Yours,

HELEN WHATELY