
Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation

Scott Heald
Director (Data & Digital Innovation) / Head of Profession for Statistics
Public Health Scotland
(by email)

18 March 2025

Dear Scott

Re: 18 Weeks Referral to Treatment Publication Pause

Thank you for your letter formally outlining the intention to pause the data collection and production of the Public Health Scotland's [quarterly official statistics publication](#) on adherence to the NHS Scotland 18-week referral to treatment (RTT) standard after the next scheduled publication on 18th March 2025.

I understand that this decision has been taken to ensure that you are able to divert resource to the development of key statistics that will monitor progress towards the Scottish Government's [commitment to treat 150,000 more patients by March 2026](#). Your team explained how the Health Boards, Scottish Government and yourselves have been prioritising resources whilst keeping users informed of your plans as they progress. I understand that you have consulted with known core users of the statistics and no concerns have been raised to date. I ask that you continue to keep all users updated on your plans for these statistics as they develop so that users know what to expect and can contribute to these plans.

I thank you for your openness and proactive engagement with us on this matter. My team will continue to engage with you as you respond to emerging demands and balance resources accordingly.

Yours sincerely



Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation