



All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Mark.lewis@parliament.uk

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Humza Yousaf MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Congratulations on winning re-election and your appointment as Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.

We commend the work the Scottish Government have done over the past five years, with being the first country in the UK to have routine commissioning of PrEP, supporting the Fast Track Cities initiative and committing to ending new transmissions of HIV by 2030, however more needs to be done.

We are at a crucial point in the fight against HIV. It was encouraging to see you're re-committed to this target in your manifesto. It's crucial that work to achieve this historic goal of ending the domestic HIV epidemic is done by the four governments in the UK working together.

We will only achieve this one-off opportunity to end the domestic HIV epidemic if the HIV Action Plan is worthy of its name. We would urge you to work with the voluntary HIV sector and NHS colleagues across Scotland to write the plan and publish before the summer of 2022.

We know PrEP is nearly 100% effective when taken correctly and has played a key role in the recent declining numbers of new HIV transmissions in the UK.

The routine commissioning of PrEP is something that the Scottish Government can rightly be proud of. However, it is clear that if we are to meet the ambitious target of ending new transmissions of HIV by 2030, much wider awareness of, and access to,

PrEP needs to be ensured. A key plank of this must be access to PrEP in health care settings other than just sexual health clinics,, as we know particular vulnerable groups engage with these services less often.

In England, NHS England have begun initial discussions about the access of PrEP in community settings, specifically via community pharmacy.

We would welcome if the Scottish Government would begin similar conversations in Scotland.

Stigma about sexual health is known to deter people from asking for time off from work to attend a clinic. Even before COVID-19, for an appointment at many clinics, people had to ring the clinic and take time off work for a face to face appointment.

We would urge the Scottish Government to explore the possibilities of setting up a national HIV postal testing service, providing access to HIV testing and PrEP in both GP surgeries and pharmacies, in a similar way that contraception is often managed.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely

Alison Thewliss MP, Vice Chair – All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS
The Rt Hon David Mundell MP, Vice Chair – All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS
Grant Sugden - Chief Executive, Waverley Care