

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP  
Chair  
Health and Social Care Committee  
House of Commons  
London SE1A 0AA

22 July 2019

Dear Dr Wollaston,

Thank you for your letter of 27 June to the National Prison Healthcare Board for England (NPHB) requesting an update of the work of the Board to develop a definition of equivalence of healthcare for people in prison. As co-Chair, I am responding on behalf of the NPHB.

This issue was discussed at the last meeting of the NPHB on 10 July which I chaired. Building on discussions previously held by Board members, we are considering the definition published already by the Royal College of General Practitioners, in their position statement on equivalence of care in secure settings in the United Kingdom. This can be viewed at: <http://www.rcgp.org.uk/about-us/news/2018/july/prison-health-is-public-health.aspx>

However, this definition is still subject to internal clearance processes and the NPHB will continue to discuss it over the summer. The NPHB should be able to come back to you with an agreed response in September.

The NPHB members continue to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of people in prisons and in delivering the objectives outlined in our published workplan. This is available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/764884/NPA\\_Workplan\\_for\\_Publication.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/764884/NPA_Workplan_for_Publication.pdf)

The NPHB is very grateful for the interest and support of the Health and Social Care Committee in its work and look forward to providing you with further updates on progress made on shared priorities.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Éamonn O'Moore  
Co-Chair of National Prison Healthcare Board,  
National Lead for Health & Justice, Public Health England.