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Dear Colleagues.

On Thursday, in the Scottish Parliament, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport confirmed that NHS Scotland will remain on an emergency footing until at least 30 June 2021.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-36016&ResultsPerPage=10>

The last few months have emphasised the unique nature of this pandemic and the challenges it brings. It also highlights the continued requirement for NHS Scotland and its partners to be agile and collaborative in their response to the new and emergent issues that we face.

The government has a Strategic Framework in place to help guide Scotland through this next phase, and I am grateful for the work of you and your teams in submitting your Annual Operating Plans, which will enable our NHS to plan and prepare the future delivery of health and social care services to our communities. As the Cabinet Secretary has already signalled, I am mindful that further challenges will still lie ahead, but I am confident that we have built on the experience and lessons to this point and that we will respond quickly and appropriately to any future issues that may arise.

Finally, I want to thank you and your teams for their continued dedication and commitment over this period. I am committed to supporting you and your teams as we move through this pandemic, so please let me know if there is anything more that I can do to support you.

