



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Alex Rowley MSP**  
**Member for Mid Scotland and Fife**

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Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care  
Scottish Government  
Edinburgh  
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Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I am writing to you to raise concerns about the weekly A&E Activity statistics published by Public Health Scotland on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 in relation to NHS Forth Valley.

The weekly attendance at A&E figures show that only 47.6% of attendees were seen within four hours for NHS Forth Valley. This is not only the worst figure for any health board in Scotland, but also the only health board with a figure below 50%. If you compare this with NHS Tayside, which is also within my region, and the fact that 91.1% of attendees were seen within four hours; you can see quite starkly the scale of the problem I am raising concerning NHS Forth Valley. On top of the extremely low figures to be seen within the four-hour target, 23.7% waited over eight hours (the worst in Scotland) and 10.2% waited over twelve hours to be seen (also the worst in Scotland). The percentage of attendees waiting over twelve hours in the other health boards covering my region, NHS Fife and NHS Tayside, were 0.4% and 0% respectively.

As you are aware, the Scottish Government has set a target that 95% of people attending A&E should be seen, admitted, discharged or transferred within four hours. Yet here we have over half of attendees to NHS Forth Valley waiting over four hours, almost a quarter waiting over eight hours and one in ten waiting for over twelve hours.

This is not the first time I have raised concerns regarding NHS Forth Valley A&E waiting times. I wrote to the Chief Executive of NHS Forth Valley in February 2018, I submitted a written question to the Government on the 3rd of September 2021 (**S6W-02662**), followed by a letter to your predecessor Humza Yousaf MSP on the 9th of November 2021, and last year I tabled another question (**S6W-10579**). The last response still failed to address the reasons why this specific health board is consistently recording such low figures and simply cited "*significant pressure due to the direct and indirect consequences of the pandemic which is impacting on A&E performance*". This however does not address why this specific health board is underperforming so drastically compared with all others in Scotland, and so consistently recording some of the lowest figures in Scotland.

I am hoping you are aware of this situation and would be keen to know what action the Scottish Government is taking to address this longstanding issue.

Kind regards,

Alex Rowley MSP



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