

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



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Dear Colleagues,

REBUILDING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

Thank you for inviting me to join you on your Zoom meeting on Wednesday 17 June 2020 to present my approach to rebuilding HSC services and for me to hear your thoughts and ideas. I found the discussion very constructive and I appreciate your supportive approach to addressing the significant challenges in rebuilding services while maintaining a state of readiness to manage any further outbreaks of Covid-19.

I would again take this opportunity to send my thanks to you as chairs, to your non-executive member colleagues of your respective boards and the magnificent staff working across the HSC for the fortitude that you have shown during the very difficult months which we have recently experienced.

We agreed that we should schedule regular meetings similar to our discussion last Wednesday to exchange views and thoughts on the rebuilding of services programme as it begins to roll forward. In addition to these meetings I considered that it might be helpful to you in your communications with your respective board colleagues, if I were to write to you following the weekly meeting of the Management Board to provide a short update of the business conducted by the Board. The first of these updates follows below.

The Management Board met on Wednesday 17 June 2020 and considered papers setting out proposals for the implementation of regional models for the delivery of orthopaedic services and daycase elective care. The Board agreed to recommend to me that I should consider giving approval to both of these models.

The orthopaedic regional model would involve establishing a Northern Ireland Orthopaedics Network.

The regional daycase elective care model would involve establishing a network or management vehicle. Further work is to be taken forward on relating both models to the role of the HSCB in relation to the commissioning and funding of these services.

The Board also received a brief overview of work being progressed by the HSCB and Primary care to rebuild primary care services and strengthen links with secondary and community care. The Board will give this detailed consideration at its next meeting.

I will in due course receive the proposals from my officials for rebuilding orthopaedic and daycase elective services and will give these thorough consideration before reaching a decision.

I trust that you will find this brief update on the business of the Management Board helpful and I look forward to our continuing discussion on the vitally important work of rebuilding HSC services in the weeks and months ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Swann', written in a cursive style.

Robin Swann MLA
Minister for Health

