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Dear Colleague

## **NHSSCOTLAND/STONEWALL SCOTLAND NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2017-18**

1. I am delighted to formally announce that we will be continuing our existing national partnership agreement with Stonewall Scotland in 2017/18. Having reviewed the activity undertaken in 2016/17, it is clear that this partnership has added real value, particularly in supporting Boards to develop and/or refine their equality outcomes, alongside associated delivery plans. It is clear that our on-going and collective commitment to further enhance LGBT inclusion and equality not only has a positive impact on staff engagement and wellbeing, but it also improves the experience of LGBT patients who access NHSScotland Services.

2. In 2017/18 we will be providing Stonewall Scotland with additional resources in order to further enhance the quality of the training, support and guidance offered to Boards through the partnership. I indicated in my previous letter (DL (2016) 16 that this year we would be looking for all Boards to submit to the Workplace Equality Index and 4 Boards participated in the formal process last year. I would like to see significant progress on the numbers of Boards participating in the current year, with ideally all Boards participating. To assist, Stonewall Scotland has extended the 2018 WEI submission deadline until 22 September, and I would encourage you to make arrangements for you Board to make a submission.

3. As in 2016/17, Stonewall Scotland will work alongside Boards, providing support that complements existing local approaches. Further substantive details of the agreement for 2017/18 will be cascaded to existing Health Board contacts. I can confirm that Stonewall Scotland will provide dedicated support to Boards submitting either a full or part submission to the WEI. They will also provide comprehensive feedback to Boards on their submissions, to support continuous improvement. Additionally, they will provide assistance with inclusive recruitment, including the direct promotion of board level appointments through Stonewall's dedicated social media platforms.

**DL (2017) 21**

### **Addresses**

#### For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards,  
Special Health Boards &  
NHS National Services Scotland

#### For information

NHS Board HR Directors  
NHS Board Employee Directors  
NHS Board Equality and Diversity  
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### **Enquiries to:**

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4. Other activity included within the scope of the 2017/18 Partnership Agreement will focus explicitly on promoting the quality of services offered to LGBT patients. Working in partnership with the Scottish Trans Alliance (STA), Stonewall Scotland will work with Boards to develop and disseminate branded resources that address trans-specific healthcare needs. Further, Boards will be supported to identify improved methods for capturing the data relating to LGBT individuals' needs and experiences of engaging with health services.

5. I am grateful for the continued leadership that you provide in this critical area of promoting LGBT equality and I look forward to another year of successful partnership working.

This Letter can be obtained at <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/publications/>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shirley Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a period at the end.

Shirley Rogers  
**Director of Health Workforce and Strategic Change**