



Graham Matthews  
info@friendsofinschhospital.org

Our Reference: 202600511932  
Your Reference: SCIO

30 March 2026

Dear Graham,

I refer to your email of 19 March 2026 on behalf of the Friends of Inch Hospital and Community SCIO regarding the position of Inch War Memorial Hospital and the concerns expressed about the process followed to date.

I appreciate the time and care that have gone into setting out the issues affecting the local community, including the impact of the continued closure of inpatient services and the strength of feeling surrounding the future of the facility and would like to assure you that the matters you have highlighted are taken seriously.

The Scottish Government recognises the importance of clear, transparent and inclusive processes when any change to local health services is considered, particularly in rural areas where access to care can be more challenging.

Any decision on the future use of Inch War Memorial Hospital will be decided between NHS Grampian and the local stakeholders. Only once a decision is made can the Scottish Government consider what support can be offered.

Given the central role of Healthcare Improvement Scotland in advising on service-change processes and ensuring that appropriate standards are met, I have passed on your correspondence to them and asked them to ensure that they provide advice to local partners on the clarity around the status of any service changes.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)



Thank you again for writing and for your continued engagement on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Trotter

**HIS : NHS FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

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