



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament | Highlands and Islands

The First Minister  
Scottish Government  
By e-mail

16th May 2024

I am writing following today's First Minister's Questions and the exchanges regarding the health incidents on Skye over the weekend and the lack of urgent care cover in Portree.

I had hoped to question the Health Secretary directly on this, but my Topical Question submitted over the weekend was not selected, and Kate Forbes MSP's General Question on this was withdrawn when she became a minister. I wanted to raise this with you at FMQs but was not called by the Presiding Officer.

As you know, the medical emergencies on Skye were extremely worrying. In the incident highlighted at FMQs today by my colleague Douglas Ross MSP, my constituent Eilidh Beaton, suffering anaphylactic shock, and left waiting an hour for an ambulance, was forced to use 5 epi-pens just to stay alive, while drifting in and out of consciousness. Oxygen was sourced but Eilidh's boyfriend, Michael, sent to Portree Hospital to get a mask to deliver it, found the lights on but the hospital locked. After knocking on the doors and throwing stones at the windrows, it took a further 999 call before the hospital provided a mask.

Eilidh told *The Press & Journal*: "At one point I thought if I don't get oxygen I will not be here tomorrow." And Michael, said "she could have died because there was no medical help at the hospital."

I was on Skye on Friday evening meeting with local hospital campaigners from Save Portree Hospital. Even before these latest incidents, local people were angry. But many are now frightened too. It is just not acceptable.

So will you give my constituents on Skye a clear and irreversible commitment that 24/7 urgent care will be reinstated at Portree Hospital as a matter of urgency?

And as I asked your predecessor, Humza Yousaf, only a couple of weeks ago at FMQs, will either you or your Health Secretary, Neil Gray MSP, come to Skye, meet with local campaigners and concerned residents, and give that commitment in person?

Yours sincerely,

**Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP**  
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