



07-040

HOUSE OF COMMONS

10 January 2007

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Molly Robertson  
c/o Sean Doohan  
Scottish Executive Health Department  
Public Health Team  
3E(s), St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Dear Molly Robertson,

Further to your covering letter of 25 October accompanying the Scottish Executive's consultation on public health legislation, I would like to make a brief contribution in response to point 3.19 and question 1.5, as the Member of Parliament who introduced the 1987 AIDS (Control) Act.

Given the current position on HIV/AIDS, it would be a mistake to reduce the focus on this condition. Freeing Health Boards from the requirement to produce an annual AIDS (Control) Act report could well be a retrograde step.

I recognise the strength of the point about local government collaboration and the work of local authorities, but would suggest that answer is to ensure that each Health Board provides in its report the appropriate information about the work done on HIV/AIDS by local authorities in that Health Board's area, including education and prevention work. When it comes to producing a report, it is better that one organisation is ultimately responsible for the report, rather than having joint responsibility. After 20 years I have no doubt that Health Boards are well versed in producing such reports.

I hope, therefore, that the requirements upon Health Boards under the AIDS (Control) Act will not be repealed.

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