

**LETTER FROM THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SPORT, DATED 10
DECEMBER 2010**

1. Thank you for your letter of 10 December 2010 seeking further information on how the Government will continue delivering services for adults under the Scottish Government's autism strategy.
2. There are a number of legislative and policy requirements that apply equally to adults with autism as they do to other groups. Councils have a duty of care for adults with autism under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. Legislation to protect adults at risk, such as the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 is also appropriate to adults with autism. Information about specific services available for adults with autism is not collected by the Scottish Government, but services are subject to inspection and monitoring as part of both learning disability thematic reviews and more general social work service reviews. Our draft Self-directed Support Bill will apply to all who are assessed as needing social care, and will be of particular relevance to people with autism who often find the flexibility of the support this brings more appropriate to their specific needs.
3. The Commissioning guidance issued in 2008 sets out the key criteria that should be included in commissioning health, social care, housing and leisure and recreation services. I believe our proposed activity through the national strategy to build on these standards, along with the forthcoming Self-directed Support Bill, will bring about the focus that is needed to deliver better outcomes for adults with autism, and that a separate Bill for this group would not bring about the necessary change any more effectively.

Shona Robison
Minister for Public Health and Sport
10 December 2010