



Dear Jenni Minto MSP, Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

We, the undersigned Health Spokespersons of our parties, come together to celebrate World Diabetes Day and express our collective support for the recommendations put forth by Diabetes Scotland in their year-long campaign 'Diabetes Tech Can't Wait'. We refer the Minister to motion S6M-08272, through which the Parliament welcomed the launch of this campaign and recognised its importance.

There are currently more than 35,000 (35,619) people living with type 1 diabetes in Scotland, 17.7% of whom are using insulin pumps and 8.3% are using continuous glucose monitors to help them manage their diabetes. Diabetes technology improves blood sugar management and reduces the risk of complications of diabetes such as stroke, eye damage and kidney disease. It also improves mental wellbeing and quality of life, for both people living with diabetes and their families.

On World Diabetes Day, Diabetes Scotland published its Diabetes Tech Can't Wait campaign report, in which it sets out eleven recommendations to enable the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland to achieve fair and equal access to diabetes technology across Scotland. These recommendations align with our vision for improving the lives of individuals living with diabetes and call on the Scottish Government to set ambitious targets to drive forward progress. Specifically, we support the aim of achieving 100% of children and 70% of adults living with type 1 diabetes to be using hybrid closed loop technology by the year 2030. This goal reflects our commitment to leveraging innovative technology to enhance the quality of life for those managing this chronic condition.

To make the much-needed substantial strides in the rollout of this life-changing technology, and to achieve fair and equal access to diabetes technology across Scotland, additional funding is essential. Further, we wholeheartedly endorse the recommendation for this funding to be guaranteed sustained, ringfenced funding to meet the demand for diabetes tech and cover ongoing costs.

Furthermore, we endorse the recommendations made by Diabetes Scotland, which call on Health Boards to eliminate unnecessary barriers that impede access to technology, including structured education for individuals experienced in managing their diabetes. We recognise that progress has already been made in the field of diabetes technology, such as the recent announcement of a national onboarding programme aimed at increasing the adoption of diabetes technology. As such, we further endorse the recommendation to develop the National Diabetes Tech Onboarding Pathway into a long-term programme if proven successful.

In conclusion, we, the undersigned Health Spokespersons of our parties, are committed to advancing the cause of diabetes care and technology in Scotland. Specifically, we are committed to achieving an expansion of fair and equal access to diabetes technology, ensuring that every person with diabetes has access to the most suitable technology to manage their condition effectively and enhance their overall quality of life.

To achieve this Scottish Government must allocate additional funding to ensure the NHS can go further and faster in the rollout of diabetes tech so no one has to fight for it.

As representatives of our constituents, many of whom live with diabetes, we are dedicated to supporting and advocating for these initiatives to bring about positive change and a future



where no one's quality of life is compromised by this condition. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Scottish Government and Health System to make this vision a reality.

Yours Sincerely,

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP for Edinburgh Western, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Health Spokesperson

Jackie Ballie MSP for Dumbarton, Deputy Leader of the Scottish Labour Party, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care and Drugs Policy

Dr Sandesh Gulhane MSP for Glasgow, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care for Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party