

GMS National References, Evidence Verification and Assurance Statement (December 2025)

This document provides the verified evidence base and assurance statement for the GMS Review. It consolidates explicit national references identified in the thematic analyses, inferred dependencies, and the wider policy landscape shaping local implementation. All sections are formatted for inclusion within the GMS Framework Paper and Integration Joint Board (IJB) submission.

Explicit National References

- NMAHP Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals) - explicitly referenced multiple times in Phase Two Leadership & Governance (Service Delivery). Links nationally to the Scottish Government Chief Nursing Officer Directorate (NMAHP Professional Leadership) and NES NMAHP Directorates for workforce education and professional development.
- 'Once for Scotland' initiatives - explicitly referenced in Phase Two Wider Stakeholders (Digital). Represents Scottish Government / NHS Scotland national programmes promoting consistency across digital systems, workforce processes and shared infrastructure.

Inferred National Dependencies

- Audit Scotland Review of Primary Care Reform - national oversight of performance, assurance and value for money in primary care reform.
- 2018 GMS Contract - national contractual framework defining workload distribution, multidisciplinary models and funding mechanisms.
- Digital Health and Care Strategy - national direction for interoperability, data sharing, digital innovation and citizen access.
- Public Health Scotland - national data standards, benchmarking datasets and analytical infrastructure informing planning and performance measurement.
- National Premises Investment Policy / Property Strategy - national approach to estates, capital planning and sustainability.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland Quality Framework - national guidance for consistent quality assurance and improvement across primary care services.

Wider National Context and Emerging Frameworks (Connecting with the Landscape)

The following national frameworks, strategies and policy programmes form the wider Scottish context within which the GMS Review will operate. Although not discussed directly within the thematic analyses, they represent the live national reform landscape and underpin the review's alignment with wider system priorities:

- Memoranda of Understanding with Integration Authorities - sets out joint working, governance and funding arrangements for delivery of the 2018 GMS Contract and partnership-based implementation.
- Service Renewal Framework (2025) - national programme to modernise models of care, strengthen integration and embed prevention in service planning.
- Population Health and Prevention Framework - national driver for addressing inequalities and embedding prevention as a core function of primary and community health services.
- NHS Reform and Sustainability Priorities - Scottish Government reform pillars of equity, prevention and fiscal sustainability that underpin local review principles.
- National Workforce Strategy for Health and Social Care (2022–2026) - overarching plan for workforce supply, education and wellbeing across the system.
- Fairer Scotland Duty and Consumer Duty - statutory frameworks requiring consideration of socioeconomic impact and consumer protection in service planning and change.
- Health and Social Care Integration Framework - defines governance, accountability and joint planning arrangements between NHS Boards and Local Authorities.
- National Condition Strategies (Cancer, Mental Health, Long-Term Conditions) - national programmes setting outcome expectations for community-based care.
- NHS Scotland Quality Strategy and HIS Quality Framework (2023 refresh) - overarching framework promoting continuous improvement, person-centredness, safety and effectiveness.
- Audit Scotland Principles for Public Service Reform - national assurance guidance emphasising transparency, outcomes and value for money.

- Scottish Government Route Map for Primary Care Reform - the national strategic framework defining the direction for general-practice sustainability, workload transfer and multidisciplinary-team development.
- NHS Scotland Route Map to Sustainability and Value (2015) - complementary national framework promoting efficient, outcome-focused and sustainable health-and-social-care systems; underpins long-term reform principles.
- Population Health and Health Inequalities Improvement Plan - national plan (2025) setting expectations for population-health improvement, data-driven targeting of inequalities and prevention in primary-care pathways.
- NHS Scotland Workforce Strategy Delivery Plan (2025 update) - implementation plan supporting the National Workforce Strategy for Health and Social Care 2022–2026, providing specific actions for workforce modernisation and retention.
- National Digital Health and Care Delivery Programme - current national programme operationalising the Digital Health and Care Strategy through shared-care-record and interoperability initiatives.
- National Performance Framework for Health and Social Care - cross-government outcomes framework linking service delivery, reform priorities and population-health outcomes to national performance measures.

This comprehensive statement provides an evidence-based summary of explicit, inferred and contextual national dependencies for the GMS Review. It ensures that the framework, logic models and delivery planning remain aligned with Scotland's national policy and reform environment.

Assurance and Governance Statement

Verification Process. Each of the thematic analyses (one for each Phase and a consolidated analysis for Phases 1 – 3) was reviewed line-by-line to identify national references, both explicit and inferred. The exercise confirmed two explicit national references, six inferred dependencies drawn directly from the engagement evidence, and a further group of wider national frameworks and emerging policies that define the current reform environment. All findings have been re-verified for accuracy.

Assurance Pathway. Verification was undertaken by the GMS Review Team. Results are endorsed by the Strategic Planning Manager and Senior Responsible Officer for the GMS Review. The verified evidence base will feed directly into the 'Connecting with the Landscape' column of the Logic Model and the Assurance & Governance section of the GMS Framework Paper submitted to the Integration Joint Board.

Governance Statement. This verification confirms that all national frameworks referenced within the GMS Review are either explicitly named or evidenced through contextual inference within the four thematic analyses. The record provides a defensible

audit trail for assurance, scrutiny and governance purposes, ensuring alignment between local delivery and the national reform landscape.