



E: JohnPaul.Liddle@gov.scot

29th April 2026

Dear all,

I am writing to provide an update on [The Public Bodies \(Joint Working\) \(Integration Joint Boards\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2025 \('the Order'\)](#), and to outline our focus as we move into the implementation phase.

As you may already be aware, the Order was laid on 19 December 2025, following which the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee put out a call for evidence in late-January to inform its evidence session on the instrument on 3 February 2026. The parliamentary process has now concluded, and the legal change is due to come into effect on 1 September 2026.

To prepare for this, we have been working collaboratively with relevant partners to support effective implementation in advance of September. The Scottish Government is progressing refreshed guidance through a Short Life Working Group (SLWG). The membership of the SLWG (set out in Annex A) comprises a variety of members with an interest in health and social care, including IJB Chairs and Vice Chairs, Chief Officers and Chief Financial Officers, lived experience representatives, Third Sector partners, and Scottish Government officials, bringing together broad representation and a wide range of expertise from across the sector.


We will continue to work with IJBs to ensure that representatives are fully supported and well prepared for their new role in the voting process, and we have asked the ALLIANCE and the Coalition of Carers in Scotland to undertake work with existing IJB members with lived experience of accessing services and as carers respectively, to further support the transition.

We are committed to implementing the regulations in a way that strengthens governance, enables meaningful participation, and supports improved outcomes across IJBs. Over the coming months, we will maintain close engagement with IJBs and other partners, providing ongoing advice, updated guidance, and practical support to ensure that everyone is well equipped for implementation when the regulations come into force in September.

Through our work to date, we note that some local areas may wish to update their integration schemes as a consequence of the legislative change. Annex B sets out guidance on this matter.

We would welcome any issues or reflections you may have as this work progresses.
These can be shared with us by email at Kaitlyn.Main@gov.scot.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Paul Liddle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

John Paul Liddle

Deputy Director, National Care Service Development & Delivery Division
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Annex A - Membership of the Short Life Working Group

The ALLIANCE

Coalition of Carers in Scotland

COSLA

East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care

East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

Enable

Falkirk Integration Joint Board

Glasgow City Integration Joint Board

Glasgow Disability Alliance

Health and Social Care Scotland

Integration Joint Board Chairs and Vice Chairs Network

Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership

Perth & Kinross Integration Joint Board

Public Services Delivery Scotland

Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

Scottish Government Internal representation

Shetland Integration Joint Board

Standards Commission Scotland

TSI Scotland

Annex B - Voting membership and integration schemes: guidance note

Integration schemes are provided for under Part 1 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (“the 2014 Act”) and associated legislation as a way to deal with the delegation of functions between health boards and local authorities.

Except where Ministers require an integration scheme to be revised following new regulations prescribing further scheme information, it is for local authorities and health boards to determine whether a revision to a scheme is required.

Information outside of that needed to properly delegate functions under section 1(3) of the 2014 Act does not comprise required information and, whilst helpful, is not considered to form part of the scheme.

Ministers would therefore not consider the recent change to member voting rights under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 (“the 2025 Order”) as comprising a change to the delegation of functions under an integration scheme.

If a scheme currently specifies detail on voting and non-voting membership and the local authority (or local authorities) and health board consider that this information requires updating, they may wish to adjust the scheme accordingly and jointly provide an updated copy to Ministers as soon as reasonably practicable, noting the changes made.

Where a scheme has been updated in these terms, local authorities and health boards should:

- jointly publish an updated copy as soon as reasonably practicable after the proposed changes are set to apply
- submit updated schemes to integration@gov.scot for the Scottish Government to note
- note that such changes do not impact the relevant periods provided for under section 44 of the 2014 Act

The usual requirements and processes in revising an integration scheme remain in place and apply where a broader review is proposed beyond changes to membership information arising from the 2025 Order.