SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN ANSWER

**3 April 2018** (Holding Reply Issued 14 March 2018)

Index Heading: Health and Social Care

**Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many clinics a cleft surgeon attended as part of the multidisciplinary cleft team in NHS (a) Highland and (b) Fife in 2017, and how many in both plan to attend as part of the multidisciplinary cleft team in 2018.

S5W-14946

**Shona Robison:**Local surgeon led multidisciplinary outreach clinics are supported by the national cleft surgery service to ensure that the patient is seen by all the necessary clinical staff at one visit and not required to have multiple visits.

As the shortage in surgeon capacity remains these clinics are not currently operating at level they would be under a full capacity single surgical service. I

In order to ensure that all children with cleft lip and palate have been provided with the time appropriate surgery they require, multidisciplinary outreach clinics were not held in Highland and Fife in 2017. Instead, patients residing in Highland have been seen in clinics in either Grampian or Tayside, and those residents in Fife have been seen in Lothian or Tayside. These clinics are held fortnightly in Lothian and monthly in Grampian.

Arrangements for multi-disciplinary outreach clinics for the rest of the year will be confirmed once all consultant surgeon posts have been filled and the National Cleft Surgical Service is fully operational. NHS GG&C will commence recruitment for a third consultant surgeon shortly.

Locally delivered cleft services including orthodontics and speech and language therapy, remain the responsibility of local NHS Boards.