SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN ANSWER

**2 October 2018**

Index Heading: Health and Social Care

**Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reported concerns that there has been an increase in waiting times in NHS Lothian for urology treatment, including for urgent operations; what discussions it has had with the NHS board regarding this, and what action is being taken to reduce these waiting times.

S5W-18945

**Jeane Freeman:** My officials meet regularly with NHS Lothian to discuss waiting times including the specialty of urology. I am aware that waiting times for urology in NHS Lothian is below the level I expect. NHS Lothian has received £3.7 million as part of the £25 million initially issued to Boards from the £50 million announced at the end of May 2018. The Board are using £162,000 for urology services to support additional outpatient activity and theatres with a further £344 allocated for urology diagnostic tests. This should support activity for around 1,500 patients. I expect to see improvements during this year.

The recently published programme for Government committed me to publish a plan to substantially and sustainably improve waiting time performance in the face of rising demand for services - this plan will be published shortly.