

Dear Colleague

**Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) Review of
Tuberculosis (TB) in Scotland**

I am writing to draw your attention to the recently published report on the [Getting It Right First Time \(GIRFT\) Review of Tuberculosis](#), commissioned by the Scottish Government last year.

The report presents a comprehensive, data-driven analysis of TB services across Scotland, highlighting both areas of excellence and variation in service provision. It was developed in collaboration with TB services and Health Protection Teams in each health board to gain a detailed understanding of local service delivery and the challenges faced. The report sets out a series of recommendations aimed at improving the consistency, effectiveness, and equity of TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

These recommendations span both local and national levels and are designed to reinforce Scotland's commitment to the World Health Organisation's 'End TB Strategy'.

As you will be aware, Scotland has historically been a low-incidence TB country. However, the recent increase in TB cases sustained into 2024 and 2025 signals a concerning reversal of progress made towards elimination.

Scotland is no longer on track for TB elimination and action is required to halt the increase in case numbers and widening inequalities. The GIRFT review therefore provides a timely and evidence-based framework to address this emerging challenge, while highlighting priorities for action.

In light of this, I am asking Chief Executives, Directors of Public Health, Medical Directors and clinicians in copy to:

1. **Review and implement** the GIRFT TB recommendations relevant to your service area (individual health board data packs have also been issued).

**From the Chief Medical
Officer for Scotland
Professor Sir Gregor Smith**

01 October 2025

SGHD CMO (2025) 18

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives NHS Boards
Medical Directors NHS Boards
Directors of Public Health
Nurse Directors NHS Boards
Primary Care Leads
NHS Boards Infectious Disease
Consultants
Consultant Physicians
General Practitioners
Practice Nurses
Consultants in Public Health
Directors of Pharmacy
Occupational Health
TB service providers
Health & Social Care Partnership
Chief Officer
TB Scottish Health Protection
Network
Public Health Scotland
Chief Executive NHS 24
NHS National Services Scotland
NHS Education for Scotland

Further Enquiries to:

Email: healthprotection@gov.scot

2. **Support the work of** the GIRFT project team, who will be working with Scottish partners to deliver a coordinated implementation programme, overseen by a multi-organisational Scottish TB GIRFT Implementation Oversight Group.
3. **Participate** in upcoming implementation activities, including the introductory webinar scheduled for 5 November 2025 (invites have been issued to stakeholders).

Further details of the implementation plan will be shared with stakeholders at the webinar on 5 November 2025, please email rnoh.girfttbreview@nhs.net for any queries on attendance.

The initial focus will be on ensuring that the recommendations are clearly understood, effectively progressed, and successfully embedded across Scotland.

The programme will also foster collaboration, promote the sharing of good practice, and support the delivery of consistent, high-quality TB care in all settings.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to improving TB outcomes in Scotland. Your engagement is vital to ensuring we respond effectively to the current rise in TB cases and deliver equitable, patient-centred prevention and care across the country.

Yours sincerely

Gregor Smith

Professor Sir Gregor Smith
Chief Medical Officer for Scotland