

**(4) Mr D Louden**

**To the Chair of the Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Committee**

**Funding to Highland Senior Citizens Forum has been removed. Why was this done?**

*Cllr Louden will be aware that the adult social care function is delegated to NHS Highland who manage service delivery including commissioning.*

*I can advise that NHS Highland greatly values the contribution that our partners make to delivering health and care to the people of the Highlands.*

*Their Third Sector Funding Application process opened on 14 June 2021 (closing date 14 July 2021), whereby Third Sector providers were invited to bid for funding up to a maximum of £50kpa, for up to a maximum of 3 years i.e. 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2025.*

*They received a significant number of applications for funding from a wide range of sources (including a bid from Highland Senior Citizens Network) and many of their partners have been awarded funding to continue to deliver high-quality health and care services.*

*The process of selecting recipients for award from an excellent and varied group of applicants has been a challenging task, but they simply received requests far in excess of their available funds to favour all of the applications submitted for consideration. This leads to difficult decisions and means that some important activities (like Highland Senior Citizens Network) cannot be supported by NHS Highland at this time. They are working closely with the Highland Third Sector Interface to offer support and advice to those who have not received funding.*