

News from Highlands and Islands Labour

Urgent Action for Western Isles

5 June 2008

Labour's Margaret Curran, Shadow Health Secretary, is calling for the Scottish Government to take urgent action in the Western Isles to resolve the "serious failures" in the running of NHS Western Isles.

In a rural health debate today, Mrs Curran called for cross party support in a bid to ensure that the £3.3 million deficit facing the Western Isles as a result of poor management and the appointments fiasco over its Chief Executive never happens again.

Holyrood's Audit Committee published a report last month which identified there were 'serious failures' in the financial management of the Health Board.

"I know there were deep concerns about the leadership and management of the NHS Health Board on the Western Isles.

"The Parliamentary process has properly considered this and it is now vital that this government takes action to ensure that the appointment process to Health Boards is revamped to provide open and transparent procedures," said Mrs Curran.

Highlands and Islands Labour MSP Rhoda Grant added: "Solutions must also be found to allow the achievements of the current management team to go forward.

"A change in formula for funding rural NHS Boards means they are facing millions of pounds less than under the previous administration's funding settlement.

"Add that to their deficit and services are set to suffer in the area.

"The Scottish Government must step in to help find a solution to this issue."

Websites

Rhoda Grant : www.rhodagrants.org.uk

Western Isles Labour : www.westernisleslabour.org.uk

Highlands and Islands Labour : www.handilabour.org.uk