

One Parliament Left

Ending HIV transmission in Scotland by 2030

Briefing for 2026 Holyrood candidates

Scotland could be the first country in the world to end new transmissions of HIV. The next Scottish Government must seize that opportunity and act urgently to deliver on our historic goal.

Medical advances mean that today, a person living with HIV and on effective treatment can live a long, happy, and healthy life and cannot pass HIV on¹. This progress – combined with the availability of prevention medication PrEP and rapid HIV testing – means we have all the tools we need to end HIV transmission by 2030. We can achieve a historic first: ending the onward transmission of a virus without a vaccine or a cure.

The journey so far

- **December 2020** – The Scottish Government commits to ending new transmissions of HIV in Scotland by 2030².
- **December 2022** – On World AIDS Day 2022, the HIV Transmission Elimination Oversight Group published 22 recommendations to the Scottish Government, setting out the action needed to achieve the 2030 ambition³. The Scottish Government announces funding for the pilot of an ePrEP in clinic⁴.
- **October 2023** – In collaboration with the Scottish Government, Terrence Higgins Trust launches Scotland's first national HIV awareness campaign in nearly four decades with the strapline 'Stigma is more harmful than HIV'⁵.
- **March 2024** – The Scottish Government publishes the HIV Transmission Elimination Delivery Plan⁶, setting out a framework to end HIV transmission in Scotland by 2030.
- **May 2025** – The First Minister publishes his Programme for Government⁷, committing to the roll-out of emergency department opt-out HIV and blood borne virus testing in NHS Lothian, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and NHS Grampian.
- **December 2025** – Waverley Care, in partnership with NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, launch HIV Informed, a new learning hub to help address HIV stigma in health and social care settings⁸.
- **2026** – The current HIV Transmission Elimination Deliver Plan expires.

Ending HIV transmission in Scotland

Marked progress has been made towards ending new transmissions of HIV in Scotland, however without bold action our 2030 goal is at risk. There are an estimated 400 people living with undiagnosed HIV in Scotland and up to 1,400 people who are diagnosed but are no longer accessing vital treatment and care⁹. They are at risk of getting seriously ill – some already are. While medical progress has been vast, the stigma surrounding HIV remains. The next Scottish Government must renew the HIV Transmission Elimination Delivery Implementation Plan and set out clear actions to urgently address these challenges.

What needs to happen?

Our vision is a Scotland that has ended new HIV transmissions, where prevention tools are accessible to all and where people living with HIV have the support they need to access treatment and care, free of stigma and discrimination.

To achieve this vision, the next Government must **renew the HIV Transmission Elimination Delivery Plan** within the first year of the new Parliament. Within the new plan, the Government must commit to:

- 1** Roll-out opt-out HIV and blood borne virus testing in emergency departments in areas with a high HIV prevalence and to other health settings, in line with national guidelines.
- 2** Deliver a national Online HIV Prevention Service that's a one-stop-shop for at-home HIV testing and online PrEP access.
- 3** Develop a national programme to re-engage the significant number of people lost to HIV care.
- 4** Ensure equitable access to peer and mental health support for everyone living with HIV by establishing a national baseline for peer support provision in NHS Boards and committing to sufficient and sustainable funding for HIV voluntary sector services.
- 5** Fund multi-year campaigns to normalise testing, improve HIV awareness and tackle stigma, including through the development of a National HIV Testing Week for Scotland and education resources for all health and social care staff.

How can you help?

- Pledge your commitment to ending HIV transmission in Scotland by 2030.
- Share our manifesto asks on your social media.
- Meet with us to discuss how you can support our mission to end new HIV transmissions and stigma across Scotland.

Get in touch

- **Stuart Smith**, Devolved Policy and Advocacy Lead, Terence Higgins Trust, Stuart.smith@tht.org.uk
- **Alice Clarkson**, Senior Policy and Communications Officer, Waverley Care, Alice.clarkson@waverleycare.org

Endnotes

¹Terrence Higgins Trust, 2025, Can't Pass it On

²Scottish Government, 2020, Eliminating HIV transmission by 2030

³Scottish Government, 2022, Ending HIV transmission in Scotland by 2030

⁴Scottish Government, 2022, World's first online HIV prevention service

⁵Terrence Higgins Trust, 2023, Stigma is more harmful than HIV

⁶Scottish Government, 2024, Ending HIV Transmission in Scotland by 2030: HIV Transmission Elimination Delivery Plan 2023-26

⁷Scottish Government, 2025, Programme for Government 2025-26: Building The Best Future For Scotland

⁸Waverley Care, 2025, HIV Informed Learning Hub

⁹Public Health Scotland, 2025, HIV in Scotland: update to 31 December 2024

