**Statement – 06 April 2024**

West District is aware of the email and survey sent out by Scottish Hockey on Friday 5th April. We find the actions of Scottish Hockey to be overbearing, disrespectful and outside their authority.

Both West District and Women’s West District are autonomous organisations, governed by their own Constitutions and run by willing volunteers voted in by member clubs.

The West District Constitution provides the basis of how we operate and affords all member clubs the opportunity to propose changes through a democratic process. It is for our member clubs and not a third party to determine our Vision, Operating Standards and Competition Rules.

We were made aware of the intention to send out the survey at the start of the week. Despite repeated attempts by ourselves and Women’s West District to pause the process and agree on a set of questions that respect our autonomy and are not worded in a leading manner, Scottish Hockey refused.

It is our view that the efforts of Scottish Hockey would be better directed to making a tangible difference in work areas such as securing the long-term future of Glasgow National Hockey Centre; increasing the number of state Primary and Secondary Schools playing hockey; linking schools with local clubs; having a functioning membership system that supports the work of clubs; and providing better pathways for coaches and umpires.

I have written to Martin Shepherdson, Chair of Scottish Hockey to express my disappointment in their actions. The West District Committee will meet in the coming days to further discuss this matter.

Keith Joss

President, West District Hockey