I have read the CSO's draft research strategy and have a few comments – predominantly from an R&D perspective.
I don't have specific answers to most of the questions; however, my comments relate most closely to question 2.

Given the size of Scotland and the infrastructure already in place this seems like a good time to move to a more electronic and co-ordinated/nationalised R&D system.

Ethics submission is all electronic now and there is no reason, other than putting a robust system in place, why R&D should not follow. This would be simpler for researchers (since they now submit all study documents through IRAS for ethics) and should be much quicker: for opening a new study, for amendments and for adding new sites.

This would mean quite a change in, and hence a reduction in, NRS PCC. Since all R&D offices would be able to access all required documents I would expect the main role of NRS PCC would be to assign generic review, trouble shoot problems and act as a single point of contact for Scotland. Alternatively, these roles could form part of the new NRS-GMS.

In parallel with moving to an all electronic system I would recommend that the structures and systems of the individual R&D offices are standardised. A similar structure could be used in all R&D departments, with the main differences being the number of staff (which would reflect the number and complexity of studies) and the number of sponsored studies (both CTIMPs and Research studies). Alternatively, hosted and sponsored studies could be handled by different staff members.