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Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

31 July 2015

Dear Miss Robinson,

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1105

Thank you for your letter of 13th May 2015. I would refer you to my letter of 2nd April 2015, and the Petitioner's letter of 2nd March 2015, which explain the context of the current situation regarding the appointment of a third party to conduct an accountancy review.

In relation to your most recent request, the Hospice would reiterate our previous commitment to meet with the Scottish Government and NHSGGC. You will recall a meeting took place on 9th October 2013 where discussion around the appointment of a third party and the terms of reference for an accountancy review were fully explored and agreed. However, the fact remains that the terms of reference were subsequently changed by Ms Catriona Renfrew, NHSGGC, without discussion or consultation with ourselves. Excerpts from the discussions at that meeting have already been provided.

As previously clarified for you, Scottish Government were informed of this alteration and thereafter advised they would not intervene in the process at that time. The Scottish Government's approach does not make sense given the fact the process had not commenced as the terms of reference agreed were sought to be altered by Ms Renfrew's revised position.

The Hospice recognises the Petitions Committee's desire to move this situation forward, as we ourselves wish. In light, however, of the outstanding position in relation to the agreement of the terms of reference for the accountancy review, we would urge the Petitions Committee to strongly consider this "terms of reference issue" which has inhibited and delayed, by more than a year, the implementation of the process of an accountancy review – a situation we consider could have been remedied by the Scottish Government's continued participation as it was the Government that drafted the original terms of reference. We hope the Petitions Committee will be able to assist in this matter in order to progress the current situation.

Kind regards,
Yours sincerely

Sister Rita Dawson
Chief Executive

Professor B.O. Williams, Vice President
Patrons: His Grace Archbishop Philip Tartaglia,
Archbishop Emeritus Mario Conti, KC* HS PHL STL DD FRSE
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