

T: 0131-244 5079 F: 0131-244 2989
E: andrew.macleod@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Fergus Cochrane
Clerk to the Committee
Public Petitions Committee
TG.01
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

15 February 2010

Dear Fergus

PETITION PE1105 – THE ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND HOSPICE

Thank you for your letter of 13 January 2010 regarding Petition PE1105 by Marjorie McCance on behalf of the St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, Clydebank.

As you are aware, a short life working group has been set up to review the current guidance around hospice funding. The remit of the group is to ensure that the recommendations made by Audit Scotland that NHS Boards put in place commissioning and monitoring arrangements to ensure value for money in relation to specialist palliative care are fully addressed.

This includes a review of the existing guidance on NHS funding of specialist palliative care, which requires NHS Boards to fund 50% of the agreed annual running costs of independent voluntary hospices and to develop a set of recommendations with regard to future arrangements.

Due to a number of unforeseen circumstances it has proved difficult to schedule meetings. However the group met on 27 January 2010 and plan to meet again in early March 2010. They plan to report to the Scottish Government by the end of March 2010.

The Scottish Government will consider the need for revised guidance to NHS Boards in the light of the group's recommendations. The St Margaret of Scotland Hospice is represented on the short life working group. Accordingly, there are no plans for the group to meet with the petitioner in person.

Yours sincerely



ANDREW MACLEOD