

Subject: Petition PE1105 St Margaret of Scotland Hospice

PE1105/SS

From: Jean Anne Mitchell
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2011 5:25 PM
To: David F (Franck)
Subject: RE: Petition PE1105 St Margaret of Scotland Hospice
Importance: High

Dear Franck,

I would be most grateful if you would please circulate this e-mail to all Members of The Petitions Committee.

Further to my earlier communications copied to the Petitions Committee in relation to correspondence sent to GGC Health Board Chairman Andrew Robertson and further to his response to me when he states that he has had regular meetings with Professor Leo Martin, I have confirmed with Professor Martin that this is in fact not the case at all. In seeking confirmation of the Health Board Chairs statement I further made a submission of FOI Request to GGC Health Board requesting dates, times, agenda and copy of minutes of any meetings The Chair referred to. The FOI response in relation to this request is of paramount importance to the officers of the PC as it confirms that Health Board Chairman Mr Andrew Robertson **has not had any meetings with St Margaret of Scotland Chairman Leo Martin**. GGC Health Board FOI Office confirm through its response to FOI Request that The Health Board Chair has had **no meetings** at all since October 2010 which was **prior** to The Cabinet Secretary's directive to meet and engage in meaningful dialogue on 1st November 2010 at GGCHB Annual Review. Further, there has been no written communication between Health Board Chair and Professor Martin since 27th October 2010 which is again prior to the Cabinet Secretary's instruction to The HB Chair. It is therefore evident that The Health Board Chairman has had **no meetings or communication at all** with St Margaret of Scotland Chair Professor Leo Martin since 1st November 2010.

I have requested permission from Health Board Chair Andrew Robertson to make public his response to me of 25th January 2011 and await his response.

Since my last communication it has also been confirmed at GGC Health Board Meeting on 15th February 2011 that GGCHB engagement with Southern Cross to build a new 30 bed continuing care facility at Blawarthill Hospital is no longer viable as the Developer and Southern Cross is no longer working in Partnership due to their now declared inability to deliver this project due to their financial instability. Some two years ago I questioned the decision to engage with a preferred partner when the evidence was from the outset that Southern Cross was already in serious financial trouble and further had a

substantial number of complaints against them upheld.

It is my observation that now GGCHB wish to engage in a further expensive review of continuing care provision for the West area that earlier excluded St Margaret of Scotland Hospice and this is due to be completed by late summer 2011. To date there was no Consultation entered into prior to the decision was taken to remove St Margaret's Hospice funding. Even now, the Health Board continue to dismiss immediate use of the excellent facility already built and fully operational at St Margaret of Scotland Hospice a renown centre of excellence. Interestingly at Tuesday's meeting Ms. Catriona Renfrew Director of Corporate Planning and Policy declared for the first time that GGCHB Board had worked with Councillors from Glasgow City Council to secure the original plans for Blawarthill Hospital. I have made a further FOI of GGCHB to declare exactly which parties were engaged in the decision making process that to date has always been a closely guarded secret. On receipt of this information I would request the PC to accept their response along with this further response as a late submission. Further, Ms. Renfrew stated to the Board that GGCHB and Glasgow City Council **has already engaged in formal discussion with one another prior** to any consultation. I believe that this is further questionable action from GGC Health Board and begs the question -has another decision already been made?

I thank all PC Officers for their time taken in reviewing this Petition and I hope that with the support of the PC the future of St Margaret of Scotland Hospice will soon be secured and all of the uncertainty and insecurity borne out of lack of transparency may be removed. The question is simple: Why would you wish to mothball a centre of excellence which already has a proven track record which is endorsed by The Care Commission with a banding of Excellent in every criteria of their Report and engage in a new build project which is enormously expensive and replaceable with an existing **trusted** provider?

As earlier offered, I am happy to offer testimony to the PC on 8th March 2011 and would again ask the PC to site both Health Board Chair Andrew Robertson and Professor Leo Martin to hear their testimony. In the meantime as I have received no response other than acknowledgement of receipt from The Cabinet Secretary when alerting her to the fact that her instructions have been ignored, and The Chairman's inaccurate response to me - it is my intention to furnish the Scottish Information Commissioner with all documentary evidence I hold in relation to this entire affair.

I hope that everyone who is privy to all communications from me and GGCHB FOI officer will also be asking The Cabinet Secretary for Health pertinent questions about lack of transparency and especially about the conduct of her appointed Health Board

Chairman Andrew Robertson.

Kindest regards,

Jean Anne Mitchell