



Petition PE1105

Question dated 18th September 2012

Whilst we note that the petitioner considers that Hospices should be paid on a cost per bed, we would reiterate that that is not the basis of NHS Scotland policy and that St Margaret's of Scotland Hospice was a member of the group that prepared that guidance.

NHS CEL 12 (2012) restates that the basis for NHS funding of Hospices is that 50% funding should be given for mutually agreed specialist palliative care services, drawn from the list of core services given. Funding is not based on a payment per bed. This list of core services includes inpatient, day and outpatient services, education and input into acute hospitals. There is a further wide range of services that hospices could also provide such as bereavement and spiritual support. Hospices receive 50% of the costs of all the services that NHS Boards have agreed that they should provide. It is not an appropriate reflection of this diverse activity to express this as a payment per bed. Many hospices have chosen to reduce their beds in order to expand day and community services and given the independent nature of the services, each Hospice has been supported to develop an individual response in line with their own and NHS Board policy.

Hospital costs are expressed in many ways not just in terms of the cost of an inpatient episode.

The current information collected by the Board is recognised to be an initial data set and it is planned to expand this for future years to include the wider areas of activity, such as day case and outpatient work, with the agreement of the six Hospice group in the Board area. This work was delayed awaiting the issuing of the government guidance referred to above.

In addition, the national Hospice Quality Improvement Forum has not yet been established and the Board is awaiting guidance from this group before taking forward benchmarking locally.

We would confirm that the NHS Board funds 50% of the agreed service costs of St Margaret's of Scotland Hospice and on this basis treats the Hospice equitably with the other five Hospices in the area.