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David Stewart MSP Convener
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP



19 February 2014

Dear David

PUBLIC PETITION PE1105 ON ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND HOSPICE

Since our last update to the Public Petitions Committee on the 11th November 2013 both St Margaret's of Scotland Hospice and NHS GGC have indicated that they favour an 'accountancy review'. The Scottish Government will support this process.

In order to progress this work the Scottish Government is seeking a limited amount of additional detail from St Margaret's of Scotland Hospice and NHS GGC regarding the scope of the work. This will enable us and potential firms to decide what skills are required to take forward the work. This additional information will also enable us to complete the drafting of the terms of reference for this work.

As of yet we have no firm time table for when we would expect the dispute to be resolved but anticipate that this will be agreed within the terms of reference. The Scottish Government is keen that this matter is resolved as soon as possible and my officials will continue to work to achieve this.

I hope that this demonstrates the Scottish Governments continued commitment to resolving this issue.

ALEX NEIL