

Mr Michael McMahon MSP  
Convenor  
Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

2 February 2016

Dear Mr McMahon,

### **Consideration of Petition PE1105**

Thank you for forwarding the letter of 19 January 2016 from Ms Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport.

As described by Ms Robison, the meeting between Scottish Government representatives, St Margaret of Scotland Hospice representatives and one representative from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde took place on Wednesday, 23 December 2015. I understand that it was a very full meeting during which a number of matters were addressed, including:

- The formula for Hospice funding by NHSGGC which remains unknown
- The terms around which an accountancy review could take place, with a focus on two points:
  1. The inequity of funding for St Margaret of Scotland Hospice in comparison to all Hospices within the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area in relation to the baseline/historical funding situation which has created the disparity
  2. The non-recurrent funding which was provided to St Margaret of Scotland in 2005 by NHSGGC
- The St Margaret of Scotland Hospice representatives were advised by the NHSGGC representative that there will be a single Integrated Joint Board (IJB) who will take responsibility for each Hospice in Scotland based on location. In effect from April 2016, NHSGGC are not responsible for commissioning Palliative Care.
- The Health and Social Care Integration Narrative of June 2015 set out the processes that must be considered and taken forward by Health Boards and Local Authorities which was to be in partnership with health and social care professionals, the third sector, users, carers and other key stakeholders. At this time, there has been absolutely no approach, engagement or discussion with Hospices around the future commissioning of Hospice services by IJBs. The Hospice would come under the West Dunbartonshire IJB but there is no mention of Hospices within their strategic plan.
- NHSGGC representative informed the St Margaret of Scotland Hospice representatives that they will sort out what they will do with the Continuing Care contracts which will not continue as NHS Continuing Care is abolished. Hospital Based Complex Clinical Care replaces the previous Continuing Care. St Margaret of Scotland Hospice representatives were informed that there will be a much smaller number of beds. The NHSGGC representative advised that as Continuing Care is not there anymore it will be for the IJB to decide what St Margaret of Scotland Hospice can do for them. NHSGGC will promote the debate and make sure the Hospice is financially protected during the process of transition.

- The appointment of a firm of accountants was discussed in light of the fact that many of those accountancy firms approached by St Margaret of Scotland Hospice felt unable to participate in an accountancy review due to a conflict, by having carried out work in the past for either the Scottish Government or NHSGGC.

Subsequent to the meeting on 23 December 2015, the following action points which were confirmed by both NHSGGC and St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, were set out in an email from the Scottish Government Official on 18 January 2016:

1. An 'Expert Determination of Accountancy Review' can be progressed once the four bullet points listed below can be confirmed:
  - If NHSGGC agreed to share their information with all parties; and
  - If St Margaret of Scotland Hospice agreed to share their information with all parties; and
  - Other Hospices within the NHSGGC funding area were approached to ask if they are agreeable to share their information with all parties; and
  - If it was possible to find an accountancy firm to undertake the review;

Both parties would be bound to accept the outcome. NHSGGC colleagues to ask the other Hospices if they will share information and confirm responses once received.

2. An Accountant can be invited to review the technical accounting issue that is in dispute. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and St Margaret of Scotland Hospice colleagues are invited to write providing their understanding of this allocation, how it is accounted for in respective accounting processes and confirm their understanding of the current position. Meantime Scottish Government will discuss with Scottish Government Finance colleagues regarding the identification of an Accountant to undertake the review of the technical accounting issue.

As confirmed in the letter from Ms Robison, the action points above are being followed up by Scottish Government Officials in order to move forward to agreeing next steps.

Professor Leo Martin, Hospice Chairman and Mr Edward McGuigan, Hospice Vice Chairman, are willing to present to the Petitions Committee to update them directly if required in the future.

It is greatly appreciated that the Committee continues its consideration of Petition PE1105.

Yours sincerely

Jean Anne Mitchell

Petitioner