

PE1105/BBB

The Quality Unit

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Ms Alison Wilson
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Your ref: PE1105
03 August 2012

Dear Alison,

Public Petition 1105

I am responding to your letter of 26 June 2012 regarding the payment per bed costs at St Margaret of Scotland Hospice. I have listed your questions below together with our response.

“The Committee would be grateful if you could provide clarity on why there is a disparity between the payment per bed for St Margaret of Scotland Hospice and the payments per bed for other hospices both under the jurisdiction of the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board and throughout Scotland?”

“Can you confirm if this disparity will be resolved by the recent guidance on the future funding for hospices which was published as a Chief Executive Letter (CEL 12 (2012)) in May 2012?”

It is the duty of the Scottish Government to provide policies, frameworks and resources to NHS Boards, in order that they can deliver services that meet the needs of their local population. It is, therefore, for each NHS Board to decide how best to deliver high quality, safe and sustainable services to meet the needs of its local population. It would therefore not be appropriate for Scottish Government to intervene directly in or comment on matters relating to the payment per bed costs of any individual hospice within a NHS Board area. There are different local needs within different local areas so the disparity between costs per bed in St Margaret of Scotland Hospice and other hospices in the area is rightly a matter for the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board to resolve.

However, it is anticipated that the recently published guideline in the form of CEL 12 (2012) will support NHS Boards and independent hospices in determining and agreeing local commissioning arrangements.

Yours sincerely

Mark O'Donnell
Acting Deputy Director