

## **PE1105/VV**

17<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
Ms Alison Wilson  
Assistant Clerk  
Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

16 September 2011

Dear Ms Wilson,

### **St Margaret of Scotland Hospice (Petition PE 1105)**

I write with reference to the most recent response (15th August 2011) from the Scottish Government in relation to my petition.

I note the contents of the response, however I am disappointed and concerned that the actions detailed in the response have not quite translated as accurately as the response would wish to suggest.

The review conducted by NHS Scotland on the funding of independent adult hospices is now a matter of record. It is, however, worth reiterating that the primary thrust of the working group's report was about the need to develop positive, constructive and transparent working relations between NHS Boards and the Hospices, focusing on the actual methodology employed by each regional Health Board with regard to the implementation of HDL (2003) 18, and the ultimate goal was to establish a more rounded and consistent approach across all Board regions.

The review did not set out to produce recommendations based on an assumption that HDL (2003)18 would be replaced. Had members of the working group, which included representatives from various Scottish hospices, including St Margaret's, been aware of this intention then they would not have produced the report in its final form nor would the Scottish Hospice Forum have endorsed it. There was never the intention that the review would result in the drafting of a new CEL. The draft CEL which was produced is not an adequate replacement for HDL (2003)18.

Of greater concern is the detail provided regarding the next steps in developing revised guidance which will allow NHS Boards and Hospices to agree the basis of future funding arrangements.

I understand that the matter was raised at the last meeting of the Scottish Hospice Forum of 26th August 2011, which was followed by what was described as a conversation (meeting) on Monday 29th August 2011. Unfortunately and for whatever reason, that meeting proceeded without the representatives of the various Hospices who had been involved in the original review group. It did however involve representatives from the two largest Health Boards in Scotland.

**I am extremely concerned that the original purpose on my petition is somehow being lost and consumed by work being conducted at a higher level and effecting all of the Scottish Hospices.**

St Margaret's has its own particular funding issues, which are driven by its wholly unique position in terms of the services which it provides on a variety of levels. St Margaret's does not drop neatly into the apparent standardised model of a Hospice providing Specialist Palliative Care, and it is still evident that Health Board representatives continue to fail to understand this.

Despite NHS GG&C withdrawing their closure notice under a fanfare of publicity generated by the Board itself, little has progressed.

On 20th June 2011, St Margaret's were presented with a general style contract prepared by the Central Legal Office. The contract took the form of an agreement between the Board and a nursing home. This can only be seen as further evidence that the Board simply do not understand the nature of the organisation with which it is required to engage.

It is greatly appreciated the Petitions Committee has continued with the petition. As the matter of Hospice funding remains unresolved, I would therefore ask that my petition be held open.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Anne Mitchell