

Health and Healthcare Improvement Directorate
Robbie Pearson, Acting Deputy Director for Healthcare Planning



T: 0131-244 3244
E: Robbie.pearson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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

Your ref: PE1105

8 November 2011

Dear Alison

I am responding to your letter of 7 October 2011 in relation to the progress of Scottish Governments consultation on the revised guidance on adult hospice funding. I have listed the questions below together with our response.

“Can you provide an update on the progress of your discussions on developing the revised guidance for future funding arrangements for hospices?”

A short life working group (SLWG) has been established to take forward this issue. The first meeting took place on 27 October where the remit was approved. Membership consists of representatives from the Scottish Government, the Scottish Hospice Forum and NHSScotland so that all stakeholders can fully engage on any substantive issues with this agenda. At the first meeting the recommendations contained within “A Partnership for better Palliative and End of Life care: Creating a New Relationship between Independent Adult Hospices” were discussed and it was agreed they should be used as the basis for refreshing the language and terminology of HDL 2003 (18). This work will now be undertaken with full membership involvement. Further meetings of the SLWG will be arranged for December and early 2012 to continue progress. St Margaret of Scotland Hospice are represented on the group.

“You will note that in her response (PE1105/ VV) at paragraph 6 that the petitioner states that meeting(s) regarding the future funding of hospices were held in August 2011 at which representatives of various hospices that had been involved in the original review group were not in attendance at. The Committee would be interested to hear the Scottish Government’s views on this matter and if they would be able to provide any information to the Committee on the detail of these meeting (s)”.

On 29 August 2011, a meeting was held in St Andrews House to discuss the recommendations in “A Partnership for Better Palliative and End of Life Care: Creating a New Relationship Between Independent Adult Hospices and NHS Boards in Scotland”. Representatives from the Scottish Government, the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care, Children’s Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS), NHS Lothian,

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Ayrshire Hospice were present. The meeting was intended to be a brief initial one-off stock take of the current situation which would be then followed by opportunities for full SHF (Scottish Hospice Forum) engagement on the substantive issues raised from the report "A Partnership for Better Palliative and End of Life Care: Creating a New Relationship Between Independent Adult Hospices and NHS Boards in Scotland" submitted to and supported by Scottish Government. At the meeting it was agreed that a Short Life Working Group (SLWG) as detailed in the previous answer, would be established.

We will provide further updates as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely

ROBBIE PEARSON