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Mr. Franck David
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
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Date 15th February 2011
Your Ref Petition PE1384
Our Ref RC\FEB
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Dear Mr Franck,

Public Petitions Committee PE 1105

I refer to your letter of 24th November 2010 and apologise for the delay in replying, but members of the committee will be aware of a members business debate on 10th February regarding motion S3M- 7506 and St Margaret's Hospice. It seemed prudent to await the outcome of that debate until replying.

The specific question asked of the Board was:

- What action(s) will you take as part of the quarterly meetings between the Board representatives and the Hospice to discuss and resolve the issues raised in the petition?

The quarterly meetings between Board officers and the Hospice are to consider the funding, and operation, of the specialist palliative care services at the Hospice. The most recent meeting was on 13th January. Board officers attempted to ascertain why St Margaret's do not feel able to sign the Service Level Agreement and to consider if there was action we could take in response. St Margaret's indicated that this is, for them, an issue of principle, as well as a disagreement with the funding approach required by current guidance which requires Board's to meet 50% of identified costs. In light of this, the Board requires to consider if a different approach is required for St Margaret's compared to the other five Hospices within the Board area, all of which have signed the SLA and received additional funding to ensure that the Board meets its obligations to fund 50% of agreed costs. A proposition will be sent to the Hospice in the next week regarding this.

In terms of the NHS continuing care beds, and in light of changes to the planned redevelopment of Blawarthill hospital, the Board meeting today considered a paper recommending a further review of NHS continuing care in West Glasgow by the summer. St Margaret's will be informed of the details of this review in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Calderwood
Chief Executive