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Your ref: PE1105

2 June 2009

As per email

Thank you for your letter of 20 May 2009 regarding Petition PE1105, raised by Marjorie McCance on behalf of the St. Margaret of Scotland Hospice, Clydebank.

I understand that representatives from St. Margaret's attended the last meeting of the Scottish Hospices Forum (SHF), the umbrella and representative organisation of adult hospices in Scotland, at which time they provided those present with a presentation on their views on the future of adult hospice funding. For clarification, the SHF does not provide funding to Scotland's adult hospices, they do, however, represent their views.

I would repeat my offer to meet with the SHF, should the majority of their members feel that the current funding system requires updating, and my preference remains to discuss these arrangements with the SHF, and not with individual hospices.

Following the recent Audit Scotland review of palliative care services in Scotland and the recommendations made by the Scottish Parliament's Audit Committee, the Scottish Government agreed to review guidance on adult hospice funding as set out in HDL (2003) 18. I can confirm that this review will be undertaken by a working group chaired by Mr Robbie Pearson, Director of Planning and Performance, NHS Borders, and it is hoped that membership of this group will include representatives from the SHF and other stakeholders.

I expect that this group will make recommendations for further consideration by the Scottish Government.

*Best wishes
Nicola*

NICOLA STURGEON