

**PE1105/ZZ**

Mr Chris Hynd  
Committee Assistant  
Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

2 May 2012

Dear Mr Hynd,

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

Thank you for forwarding the Scottish Government's letter of 10 April 2012 which provides "an update on the progress of the Short Life Working Group (SLWG) in relation to developing the revised guidance for future funding arrangements for hospices."

The amended draft Chief Executive Letter (CEL) which will supersede the NHS HDL (2003) 18 "Funding of Specialist Palliative Care Provided by Independent Hospice in Scotland" was received on 23 March 2012 and the finalised CEL has yet to be circulated.

Discussions with NHS GGC regarding the Hospice contract continue around specific aspects in relation to Hospice funding. The funding model remains unclear for both Specialist Palliative Care and NHS Continuing Care. The guidance from the Scottish Government is awaited in relation to length of contract for Specialist Palliative Care Services.

An improved baseline funding level for St Margaret of Scotland Hospice has not been addressed within the contract. As previously mentioned in the letter to the Petitions Committee of 31 January 2012, the disparity in funding which St Margaret of Scotland Hospice receives in comparison to other Hospices in Scotland for the provision of Specialist Palliative Care still requires to be fully addressed and resolved.

The substantial continued differential in funding per bed, which was highlighted in the previous letter, remains a specific issue facing the Hospice and for this reason I ask that the Petitions Committee members allow the petition to remain open.

I greatly appreciate that the petition has been kept open for this period of time.

Yours sincerely

Jean Anne Mitchell