

PE1568/K

Petitioner Email of 4 September 2015

Dear Ned,

Thank you for agreeing that the Scottish Health Council letter of Nov 5, 2014, can now be published. As I really feel that without it, the other two letters which are based on that letter that have been published make no sense.

I had felt that this letter was important in support of my Petition and the reason that I had previously asked for it to be published ahead of my oral hearing so the Committee could be able to view it in advance of the oral hearing, and would still like to clarify why this key letter could not be published when I submitted it in advance for the hearing on June 9. I was told only on June 8 that it was not being published – but you achieved permission very quickly over it recently.

I thought it important, for the committee's and public understanding, that it be published. Re. your request to try to set in context, will this do:

"The Scottish Health Council (SHC) made seven criticisms and points over NHS Lanarkshire's withdrawal from the CIC (and forthcoming closure of two Lanarkshire CIC clinics) in their letter to the health board in 2014.

But response to this letter of Nov 5 2014 did not occur until July 2015 - after the Public Petitions clerks had written with questions. The Scottish Health Council is charged with protection of patients' interests.

Why was there an eight month delay? The two recent letters from the Board and the SHC to the Public Petitions Committee also do not answer most of the seven points raised last year, especially the SHC's previous point about "The Equality Impact Assessment does not reflect the disproportionate impact on people with long-term conditions and disabilities and how this will be mitigated".

Catherine Hughes