

PE1577/D

Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health

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Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 14 January 2016 regarding the further consideration given to petition PE1577 at the 12 January 2016 meeting of the Public Petitions Committee (*Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to develop and provide funding for a clinical pathway and services for adults with cerebral palsy*).

I would like to apologise for the delay in providing this response to you, but the meeting between myself, Ms Rachael Wallace and Murdo Fraser MSP was unfortunately delayed until 1 March. An extension to your reply deadline was agreed with your Assistant Clerk.

I met with Ms Wallace and Mr Fraser on the 1 March 2016, where we discussed a range of issues relating to services for adults with cerebral palsy. Based on these discussions, I have agreed to write to both Ms Wallace and Mr Fraser in due course to set out what the Scottish Government can do to support adults with cerebral palsy. I have also informed Ms Wallace that she can link in with my officials in the Strategic Planning and Clinical Priorities team regarding any of this work, both to keep her informed and to make use of her own personal experiences.

You also ask for clarification on the Scottish Government's views on establishing a clinical pathway and national services for adults with cerebral palsy. As I stated in my letter of November 2015 to the Committee, and as discussed with Ms Wallace and Mr Fraser at my meeting on 1 March, these issues raised by the petition had previously been brought to my attention during my visit to Bobath Scotland in March of last year. That is why we have provided £30,000 to Bobath Scotland to run a pilot project, in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership, to test an alternative supported pathway for adults with cerebral palsy. The project will explore raising awareness amongst both medical professionals (of the challenges faced by adults with cerebral palsy) and service users (regarding what options they have around supported self-management of their

condition). Bobath Scotland have been working with West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership to test an alternative supported pathway for adults with cerebral palsy.

The Scottish Government will consider the findings when this project is complete, and options for taking forward any learning and experience in a wider sense to improve adult services across Scotland.

I hope that this information is of help.

Yours sincerely,

JAMIE HEPBURN