

**PE1404/W**

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Anne Peat  
The Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

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11 February 2013

Dear Ms Peat,

**CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1404 – INSULIN PUMP THERAPY**

Thank you for your letter of 11 January 2013 to Anne Lillico and Denise McLister about Petition, PE1404, lodged by Stephen Fyfe on behalf of Diabetes UK Scotland, which calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to conduct an immediate review into the provision of insulin pump therapy (CSII) in Scotland in order to address the low and inequitable access across the country.

It is clear from the discussions at the recent Public Petitions Committee meeting on 8 January 2013, that while Committee members welcome NHS Boards progress on meeting the targets set in the Chief Executive Letter on Insulin Pumps (CEL 04 (2012)), members also continue to have concerns regarding the equitability of access to insulin pumps across the country.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that the Scottish Government remains fully committed to ensuring that all people who would benefit from insulin pump therapy receive it in a timely manner regardless of where they live.

It is the duty of the Scottish Government to provide policies, frameworks and resources to NHS Boards, in order that they can deliver services that meet the needs of their local population. As you know in February 2012 the Scottish Government published CEL 04 (2012) which set out the steps we expected NHS Boards to take to resolve the issue of equitability of access to insulin pumps across Scotland.

As each NHS Board has different specific local needs, it is therefore for individual NHS Boards to decide how best to implement the CEL to meet the commitments and

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deliver high quality, safe and sustainable services to meet the needs of their local population. As such, it would not be appropriate for the Scottish Government to micromanage local implementation. I understand that this view is shared by the Committee, and was reflected in the discussion of the Public Petitions Committee meeting of 8 January 2013.

Inevitably there will be a period of transition before the ambitions set out in the CEL becomes fully embedded, particularly for the adult population, and as such it is not anticipated that all local matters would be resolved at this stage. However, I would like to emphasise that we fully expect all NHS Boards to meet the ambitious commitments set out in CEL and we will continue to support them in this endeavour.

The Scottish Diabetes Group has been monitoring progress and it is clear that there has been substantial increase in pump provision across Scotland since December 2011. Insulin pump provision across Scotland as a whole (for people of all ages) has increased from 3.1% as reported in the Scottish Diabetes Survey 2011, to 4.1% in December 2012. This is double the rate of increase in previous years.

Additionally our latest figures show that there has been an increase in insulin pump provision for people under 18 by over 4% from 8.4% to 12.9% across Scotland, with an extra 146 people under 18 having access to pumps since December 2011.

It is encouraging to note that several Boards have either already met the target or are on track to do so for increasing pump access to children and young people. It is also encouraging that other NHS Boards, although not on track to meet the targets, have substantially increased their insulin pump services, in some cases establishing services from scratch.

However we do recognise a number of NHS Boards have not made the anticipated progress and have reported that they will struggle to meet the 2013 target. We will continue to work closely with those NHS Boards where there remain significant challenges to meeting the commitments and where appropriate provide further support to help them overcome local barriers.

The Scottish Diabetes Group will continue to monitor progress towards the targets and we look forward to publishing a full report on NHS Boards progress toward implementing CEL 04 (2012) following March 2013.

I hope the information in this letter, the terms of which have been cleared with the Minister for Public Health, is of assistance to the Committee in its further consideration of the Petition.

Yours sincerely

**RACHAEL DUNK**