

**PE1408/J**

25/8/12

Mr David Stewart MSP  
Convener  
Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr. Stewart,

**Re. Petition PE1408**

Thank you for keeping me updated regarding the progress of the above petition.

The reply from the Minister for Public Health was both interesting and promising. It seems that SIGN, along with a great many other health-related bodies including this society, are waiting for the new guidelines on Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> and Folic Acid from the British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH) to be published. The fact that these guidelines have been delayed until 2013 when they should have been published in June of this year is promising as it is probably the case that the committee is now re-evaluating recent research that points to there being a serious problem with the way in which Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> Deficiency is diagnosed and treated.

The Minister states that the BCSH is consulting with the Pernicious Anaemia Society. This is not correct. I know that Mr Martyn Hooper, the Chairman of this society, has written to the Chairman of the BCSH offering to fully co-operate with any investigation that the committee is undertaking but to date he has received no reply. Hopefully this delay in replying is due to it being late summer and both he and I are hopeful that the society will be contacted by the BCSH in the near future.

It is due to the diligence and responsiveness of your Committee and the Scottish Parliament that this problem is being addressed at such a high level and on behalf of the Pernicious Anaemia Society I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your support in this matter. I would also like to thank your secretariat for keeping me so well informed of the progress of the petition.

Yours sincerely

Andrea MacArthur