

**PE1408/O**

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**The Scottish  
Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Andrew Howlett  
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The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP



**LEGACY 2014**  
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES  
SCOTLAND

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10 October 2013

Dear Mr Howlett,

**CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE 1408 - PERNICIOUS ANAEMIA**

Thank you for your letter of 9 September 2013, about Petition PE 1408, lodged by Mrs Andrea MacArthur, which calls on the Scottish Parliament to review and overhaul the current out-dated and ineffective method of diagnosing and treating Pernicious Anaemia/vitamin B12 Deficiency. Our response to the Committee's latest question follows:

**In anticipation of the guideline on B12 and folate deficiency being published by the British Committee for Standards in Haematology, when will the Scottish Government report on the implementation of the findings?**

The committee may find it helpful if I clarify that the role of the Scottish Government is to provide policies and frameworks for NHSScotland to support the delivery of high quality services that are person centred, safe and effective. It is however for NHS Boards to plan and deliver services to meet the needs of their resident populations taking account of relevant local and national clinical guidance.

Our position in relation to the implementation of the findings of the guideline remains unchanged and as set out in our letters to the committee of 12 August and 2 November 2012, the Minister for Public Health has given a commitment to make the British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH) guidance on B12 and folate deficiency available to clinicians across NHSScotland, including those in primary care. We are not able to confirm that NHSScotland will implement the findings of the guideline prior to its publication.

The Committee will wish to be aware that the BCSH have advised that the draft guideline on B12 and folate deficiency is currently moving through their peer review process and the publication date for the guideline is now anticipated to be early in 2014.

I hope that the Committee finds this reply, the terms of which have been approved by the Minister for Public Health, helpful.

Yours sincerely

Sinead Power

Team Leader  
Clinical Priorities Team