

Mr Stuart Todd
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

30 October 2012

Dear Mr Todd

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 2012 to DG Health and Social Care about Petition PE1424, "Road to Health", seeking answers to two written questions, as under.

1. The Committee would be grateful if you could provide an update on the Short Life Working Group's timetable for publishing its report on healthcare transport across NHSScotland and the accompanying toolkit.

It is recognised that reaching an agreed final report has taken longer than originally anticipated, first to allow the working group to consider and respond to some of the issues identified by Audit Scotland in their 2011 report, *Transport for Health and Social Care* and more recently to finalise their own report.

One further meeting of the Group will take place in mid-November 2012 with a view to agreeing a final report which would be presented to Ministers for consideration.

2. The Committee is interested to know what progress has been made with the proposed pilot projects in two NHS Board areas around an integrated hub model of provision.

It is anticipated that in agreeing their final report the Working Group will recommend to Ministers that two (or perhaps three) pilot projects should be established to test the benefits of an integrated hub model in a variety of settings. As such, this will be a significant part of their final report which will be considered by Ministers.

As far as timescales are concerned, dependent on timing of completion of the Group's final report following their meeting in November, it is hoped to submit this to Ministers for consideration by end November 2012 with a view to seeking applications for pilot projects over the December/January period so that successful bids may be set up as soon as possible thereafter, most likely by April 2013.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

ELIZABETH PORTERFIELD