



**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 1 MAY 2012**

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1426

NHS Tayside has prepared the following response in partnership with senior medical and nursing staff from the neonatal services based in Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, Dundee.

Question 1

The Committee is interested to hear the views from health boards on what, if any, internal discussions they may have had in relation to donor milk banks.

Response

Consultant Neonatologists and Senior Neonatal Nurses have had discussions around the use of donor breast milk, generally based on individual cases, and do see a small but important role for this in particular for the smallest and most vulnerable infants if maternal Expressed Breast Milk (EBM) is not/ not yet/ not sufficiently available.

Question 2

The Committee would also be interested to hear if you would be interested in linking into a national infrastructure and / or whether you have given any consideration to establishing your own milk bank? If so have you undertaken any financial costings?

Response

NHS Tayside have on rare occasions approached NHS Greater Glasgow donor breast milk bank for support in supplying donor EBM to the smallest and most vulnerable infants. There would be interest in linking into a national infrastructure. It is considered that the demand for donor EBM in Tayside will be too small to make establishment of a local donor breast milk bank sustainable, both in terms of manpower/facilities required and costs involved.

All women who have a small, vulnerable infant admitted to the neonatal services in NHS Tayside have a discussion with their Consultant Neonatologist about the benefits of providing EBM for their infant. The vast majority of mothers will make an informed decision to express breast milk and provide this for their own baby.

NHS Tayside believe that for those mothers who are happy to express breast milk there needs to be an increased focus on helping to increase their milk yield and minimise the need to use donor milk.

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