

PE1426/G

NHS Borders
Chair & Chief Executive's Office

NHS Borders
Newstead
Melrose
Roxburghshire
TD6 9DA



Fax: 01896 825580
www.nhsborders.org.uk

Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
T3.40
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Date 12th July 2012
Your Ref PE1426
Our Ref DA/PPC/PE1426

Enquiries to Deborah Adams
Extension 5520
Direct Line 01896 825520
e-mail deborah.adams@borders.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Ms Wilson

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1426

Petition by Donna Scott calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure equal access to donor breast milk for all premature and sick babies, irrespective of geographical location, by establishing a national donor milk bank service.

Thank you for your letter of 18th May 2012 inviting NHS Borders to comment on the above petition.

On a number of occasions NHS Borders has had to transfer babies to tertiary centres outside the Scottish Borders area for TPN (Total Parenteral Nutrition) when on high risk regimes for feeding. In many cases, the mother does not have a sufficient supply of milk to support this regime within the first three days of the baby's life and therefore, it is necessary to transfer the baby to another health board area for TPN. Transferring neonates out of the area can cause problems for the parents and their family in addition to adding to the stress of having a poorly baby.

In the past, we have investigated the possibility of obtaining breast milk from the bank in Glasgow, but the logistics and the cost of doing this are prohibitive. However, NHS Borders is meeting with NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde in August to discuss this.

Staff in our neonatal unit would welcome a national milk bank which would hopefully provide easier and more equitable access to breast milk for vulnerable neonates. NHS Borders, therefore, would support a proposal to establish a national donor milk bank.

If you require any further information, please contact Elaine Cockburn, Head of Midwifery, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9BS or e-mail elaine.cockburn@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

Continued



Yours sincerely,

Calum Campbell
Chief Executive