

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

Our Ref: PH/PE1432/12

9 October 2012

**Sent by e mail**

Dear Mr Todd,

**Scottish Ambulance Service response to Written Questions for PE1432**

The Public Petitions Committee considered the above petition at its meeting on 18 September 2012. Following the Committee meeting, a written response to the following questions was requested for 19 October 2012. Please find the Scottish Ambulance Service response below:

- **The Committee thanks you for your response of 26 July 2012 and notes that the SAS is keen to work in partnership with communities. The Committee invites the SAS to engage with the petitioners and Dalbeattie community in the further development of community schemes.**

The Scottish Ambulance Service has attempted previously to engage with the local community to set up a First Responder Scheme but it did not develop into the introduction of a Scheme. Mr Sam McNeish Area Service Manager attended a Community Council Meeting in Dalbeattie on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in relation to the petition and discussed the concept of establishing a Community First Responder scheme for the area. The Community Council were pleased to develop the relationship with the Scottish Ambulance Service and Mr McNeish advised the Council that a recruitment and selection process for a new Scottish Ambulance Service Community Resuscitation Development Officer (CRDO) for South West Scotland will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Once the appointment has been made, the Head of Community Resilience Mr Kenny Freeburn will introduce the newly appointed CRDO to the Chair of Dalbeattie Community Council and discuss the best way forward.

- **In relation to the public meeting that was arranged in Dalbeattie, the petitioners state that Community and Regional Councillors had no knowledge of the meeting. Please advise what activities and engagement the SAS is undertaking with this local community.**

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The public meeting that was arranged in Dalbeattie was being facilitated by the British Red Cross (BRC) who were organising the publicity of the meeting. The Scottish Ambulance Service supported this by advertising the meeting on twitter and facebook. Unfortunately, the advertising was not included in the local press. It should be noted that a similar event at Moffat on the previous day which was advertised in the local press, was well attended, resulting in 20 volunteers expressing their interest to be involved in a scheme. Any future programme of engagement will be widely advertised to ensure maximum community involvement. The steps outlined in the response above describe the engagement with the Community Council. This relationship with the council will develop with a view to establishing an ongoing collaborative approach to Person Centred Care within the community.

Yours sincerely

**Pauline Howie**  
**Chief Executive**

c.c. Mr Kenny Freeburn, Head of Community Resilience  
c.c. Scottish Government