

Edinburgh office

Date: 31 October 2013

Enquiries to:

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Andrew Howlett
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40, Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Dear Andrew

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION [PE1460](#)

Thank you for your letter of 4 October 2013.

During the Public Petitions Committee's evidence session on 25 June 2013, Healthcare Improvement Scotland made a commitment to collect and publish robust and transparent data in order to support improvement to chronic pain services in Scotland.

We are currently co-ordinating a national data collection exercise to provide an up to date view of national service provision and patient experience.

A core national dataset for this exercise has been developed, endorsed by the National Chronic Pain Steering Group. The dataset and plans for the data collection exercise were also shared with the Parliamentary Cross Party Group on Chronic Pain in September 2013. The national data collection exercise will run until December 2013 and consists of two parts:

- Part 1. Service level data: This will provide information about the services in relation to:
 - how they are configured
 - the waiting times to first and second appointments
 - staffing compliments i.e. WTE per professional grouping
 - types of patient information provided, and
 - plans for future development.
- Part 2. Patient level data: This is a 4-week snapshot of patient related activity which will provide information about:
 - patient referral numbers
 - patient demographics
 - sources of referral
 - type of pain
 - patient outcome and experience via a patient reported outcome measure (PROM) and a patient reported experience measure (PREM).

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High-level results will be shared with the National Steering Group and the Parliamentary Cross Party Group on Chronic Pain in December 2013 with a full report produced by the end of March 2014 and published on our website.

In addition, Healthcare Improvement Scotland is actively supporting the development of Service Improvement Groups (SIGs) in health boards across Scotland, for which two years funding is being provided by the Scottish Government. SIGs will be responsible for developing and delivering meaningful local improvements to chronic pain services, and the data collection exercise will also help to guide SIGs by identifying where local key actions are required to improve their services.

A national meeting will be held on 12 December 2013 at which a SIGN Guideline for the management of chronic pain will be launched. The event will also establish a national SIG network that will support the wider sharing of best practice and service improvement.

Patient Representation on the National Chronic Pain Steering Group

At the 25 June evidence session, Healthcare Improvement Scotland also committed to further enhancing levels of patient representation throughout the work being undertaken to improve chronic pain services.

Since then, a review of the overall membership of the National Chronic Pain Steering Group has taken place.

Alongside clinical representatives from each Board-level Service Improvement Group (SIG), and three patient organisations (The Alliance, Pain Association Scotland and Pain Concern), four seats have been made available to enhance patient representation on the Steering Group.

One seat has been offered to Susan Archibald in recognition of the national work she has spearheaded on behalf of fellow chronic pain patients, which she has accepted.

Service Improvement Groups (SIGs) are also required to have strong patient involvement. It was therefore decided, and endorsed by the National Steering Group, that the remaining three seats should be filled by patients who are actively linked to and supported by their local SIG. Guidance in support of this has been circulated to SIGs and proposals received. It is anticipated that patient representatives will join the December 2013 meeting of the Steering Group.

Overall membership will be reviewed by the Steering Group on an annual basis and it will be continued to be supported by Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Scottish Government colleagues.

I hope that this information is helpful to the Committee in its consideration of the petition.

Yours sincerely

Mr John Glennie
Chief Executive (Interim)
Healthcare Improvement Scotland