

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing

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**The Scottish
Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Mr David Stewart MSP
Convener
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



Our ref: 2014/0005372

19 March 2014

Dear Dave

Thank you for your letter of 6 February concerning the petition by John Womersley on single room hospitals.

The Single Room Steering Group assessed the financial impact of single room provision in its 2008 Report which is publicly available and which can be accessed at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/253500/0075129.pdf>. Page 24 of the Report contains details of the financial impact of the Policy with the estimated impact at between 2-2.75% on capital expenditure. We would wish to point out that single rooms are but one component of the cost of a hospital.

Since 2008 contracting for hospital building has changed with the introduction of streamlined procurement through the use of the NEC3 form of contract as used on the New South Glasgow's Project and through the NHSScotland construction framework, "Frameworks Scotland". The economic conditions that have prevailed in the intervening period have seen reductions in the cost of construction through market conditions and improved efficiency in construction methodology.

I hope you find this response helpful.

ALEX NEIL