

PE1482/G

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing

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By Email

David Stewart MSP
Convener of the Public Petitions
Committee
Scottish Parliament

In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



15 May 2014

Dear David

PE 1482 BY JOHN WORMERSLEY ON SINGLE ROOM HOSPITALS

Thank you for your letter of 3 April 2014 on the above subject. I wanted to write to confirm the current position with regard to the review of single room accommodation in hospitals.

As previously indicated to the Committee during 2014 we are undertaking a review of the published evidence relating to single room provision in hospitals. This will primarily focus on research published since 2008 since the report of the Single Room Steering Group and the issuing of CEL 48 (2008) by the then Chief Nursing Officer, Paul Martin.

Once we have undertaken a review of the evidence base in the course of 2014 the Government's policy will then be reassessed in light of that evidence. Should there be a requirement to change the current guidance then that revised guidance would be subject to appropriate consultation. In terms of the findings from the review of evidence we will commit to engaging with the Scottish Health Council who in their previous correspondence with the Committee had offered to support our review.

Your letter of 3 April asked whether any cost benefit analysis had been undertaken and the differential between 100% single rooms and 50% single rooms over a hospital's lifetime. The Single Room Provision Steering Group report which was published on 5 December 2008 contains a summary of financial impact projected at page 24 of the report. The report can be accessed by the following link.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/04160144/0>

Yours sincerely

ALEX NEIL