

**PE1568/EE**

Honor Watt Letter of 27 June 2016

The Public Petitions Committee at the end of its meeting on Tuesday 1 March 2016 agreed that petition PE1568 on funding, access and promotion of the NHS Centre for Integrative Care should be put forward as a legacy paper at its next meeting, now set for Thursday 30 June 2016. It is in this regard I am writing to you.

I suffer from chronic pain on a daily basis, and also have a mental illness, which has been kept under control by homeopathic medicines for the last 13 years, the cost of which to the NHS have been between £1 and £2 per week (figures supplied by my local pharmacist). I have for the last 2 years been denied access to a specialist homeopath, who would have been able to adjust my medications according to my needs.

Due to the financial restraints within the NHS, I would have thought NHS Lothian would have explored the possibility of prescribing patients their chosen form of medications, which could save NHS Lothian a lot of money, as in my experience homeopathy has worked for me, with no side effects, and is in my opinion a wonderful, inexpensive and effective medicine.

What I would like to see now is what was noted in paragraph 6 under Committee considerations at its meeting on 1 March 2016 calling for national funding to ensure the future of the CIC and to open up services to patients across Scotland locally.

I have also taken up this issue with my local MSP Colin Beattie. I do hope that your Committee will look at this petition with open mindedness.

Yours faithfully

Honor Watt (Mrs)