

PE1408/II

Scottish Government Letter of 12 October 2016

Dear Mr MacDonald

Thank you for your letter of 29 September 2016 regarding the Public Petitions Committee's continued consideration of petition PE1408 (Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review and overhaul the current outdated and ineffective method of diagnosing and treating Pernicious Anaemia/ Vitamin B12 Deficiency).

I will deal with your questions in turn:

1. What further work is being done in respect of the draft summary document prepared by SHS?

As noted in my previous letter to the Committee on 26 July 2016, the Scottish Haematology Society (SHS) were asked if they could prepare for use in primary care a summary of the British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH) guidelines.

I also noted that Dr Richard Soutar, Secretary of the SHS, wrote to the Committee on 22 March 2016 to notify that the Society did not have the resources to adapt the BCSH guidelines as requested. The SHS is an informal group of interested members and their obligation is primarily to their own individual patients.

In these circumstances, although this proposed adaptation is not possible, the BCSH guidelines are comprehensive and were developed following extensive review of the clinical evidence available.

We would expect GPs to follow available guidance, such as BCSH, in agreeing the most appropriate care with and for individual patients.

2. Will the summary document be published and what is the likely timeframe for doing so?

Scottish Government has no plans to publish any draft/incomplete adaptation undertaken by SHS.

The BCSH guidance is extant and is widely publicly available.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Porterfield
Head, Strategic planning and Clinical Priorities