

**PE1596/N**

Scottish Government letter of 18 January 2017

You will be aware that the Scottish Government has written formally to the Petitions Committee with information and updates as requested in relation to the correspondent's petition on 17/06/16 and 25/11/16. In the light of the correspondent's letter of 22/12/2016 I thought it would be helpful to give you a further update about some of the points raised.

### **Funding for Open Secret.**

Open Secret received £110,000 from the In Care Survivor Support Fund in November 2016 as advance payment for November and December 2016 to continue the delivery of their service to survivors of ICSSS. This ensured continuity of service whilst allowing survivors who also wished to access the new In Care Survivor Support Fund to do so seamlessly and with support from Open Secret. It is worth noting that £110,000 represents over 50% the funding Open Secret would normally receive from Scottish Government for a whole year's service delivery.

Scottish Government understand that Open Secret staff are **not** being employed on zero hours contracts.

### **Continuity of Care for Survivors working with Open Secret.**

Scottish Government officials and the new In Care Survivor Support Fund continue to work together to facilitate and enable continuity for in care survivors receiving support from Open Secret. This includes a series of meetings with Open Secret to agree the service requirements so that Open Secret can operate as an ongoing service provider to the Support Fund.

In practice this means current in care survivors receiving support from Open Secret can be assured their support will continue uninterrupted. It also means that should survivors also wish to access wider support which is not available through Open Secret (such as the discretionary element) they will have the option of registering with the Support Fund. Many survivors currently receiving support from Open Secret have chosen to do this and have received additional support. Open Secret are facilitating this and supporting survivors in this process.

### **Listening to Survivors.**

Scottish Government considers listening to and engaging with survivors of paramount importance. To this end a survivor engagement manager has been employed and will create an ongoing engagement plan to capture the views and concerns of more survivors in the future.

I hope that the Committee find this additional information helpful.