

PE1596/O

Scottish Government letter of 13 February 2017

Following consideration of the public petition PE1596 at the meeting on 19 January you wrote to me seeking clarity on several issues raised by the Committee. Please find below the response to these issues.

Interim finance arrangements

In care survivors who were receiving services from Open Secret under previous grant arrangements have continued to do so without interruption or change. Open Secret is being paid for these services, whether or not the survivors have registered with the In Care Survivor Support Fund. The Fund is in the process of reconciling payments to Open Secret for support provided for November and December 2016 as these were paid on estimates provided by Open Secret. Further payments will continue to be reviewed with Open Secret in accordance with the level of support provided.

Scottish Government and the In Care Survivor Support Fund are engaging regularly with Open Secret and its clients to provide information about the Fund, what additional support the Fund can offer, and how survivors can register with the Fund. We hope that Open Secret will become a supplier to the Fund and that all its current and future clients will benefit from this additional resource.

Long term sustainability of funding and potential loss of skills

Through providing services as part of the In care Survivor Support Fund Alliance, Open Secret is able to continue to receive funding to support in care survivors who currently access its services. It should be noted that the responsibility to deliver appropriate services for survivors lies with local statutory bodies including new integration authorities. That is why Scottish Government has invested over £10m since 2007 to improve the capacity and capability of third and voluntary sector services, including Open Secret, to develop sustainable services to meet the needs of survivors at local level. In this way the Scottish Government seeks to support developments that embed and sustain specialist services, such as those provided by Open Secret, as part of existing health and social care arrangements.

Impact on survivors

It is important to note that no survivor has had to change or lose support since the change in funding. In care survivors who currently receive their support through Open Secret are able to continue to receive this support. In addition, for those who wish, in care survivors are also able to access a broader range of support to address their individual needs through the Fund.

The Scottish Government understands that survivors require access to support that is appropriate for them. We recognise that for many survivors gaining access to the right support, including NHS services, has not been straightforward. The work that we are taking forward has been based on up to date evidence about trauma which demonstrates that, in order to address individual needs, survivors may require access to support across a wide range of domains including, housing, education, physical, social, and psychological.

I hope that the Committee find this additional information helpful.