

PE1533/KK

Scottish Government submission of 2 August 2018

Thank you for your letter of 2 July, following the Public Petitions Committee's consideration on 28 June of the above petition, in which you note that the petitioner states that they have received no response from Scottish Government in respect of their proposals for the extension of free personal care.

The petitioner, Mr Jeff Adamson, contacted the former Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Ms Shona Robison on 18 April 2018 outlining his proposal. Mr Adamson was sent a response to this correspondence dated 8 June 2018. This response thanked Mr Adamson as a member of Scotland Against the Care Tax (SACT) for his proposals.

This correspondence informed Mr Adamson and members of SACT that the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) established to advise Scottish Government on all aspects of implementation of the policy had discussed the SACT proposal at its meetings of 19 April and 21 May. This correspondence also included information relating to the group's decision to set up a Finance sub-group to consider in more detail the financial aspects of the policy over the Summer, and that this would include further consideration of the model proposed by SACT, prior to feeding back to the main IAG.

Mr Adamson was informed that the Finance Sub Group was set to take place on 18 June and Mr Adamson and members of SACT were invited to this meeting to discuss their proposed model. Unfortunately due to logistical implications of the time and venue of the meeting, no members of SACT were able to attend. Therefore the second meeting of the Finance Sub Group was set up around their availability and at an accessible venue suitable to members of SACT and this took place on 12 July.

Mr Adamson, together with colleagues from the SACT campaign, Mr Ian Hood and Mr Etienne d'Aboville, presented the proposal to the Finance sub-group and a discussion of the proposal took place. Following this meeting, Mr Hood wrote to Scottish Government with further comments and we will respond to his points in due course.

COSLA, Local Authorities and other stakeholders have been fully engaged in the Implementation Advisory Group in preparing for the extension of free personal care to under 65s, and have been working in partnership with the Scottish Government to create as robust estimates of the costs of the implementation of the policy as possible. The former Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Ms Robison, was clear in her evidence to the Health and Sport Committee on 5th June that we have proper monitoring of the implementation of the policy to ensure that the costs are reviewed and resources provided are in line with those costs.

We will continue to update Mr Adamson and members of SACT as the policy develops.