



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01407

Name of petitioner

Jamie Walker

Petition title

Scottish Cancer Drug Fund

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to set up a Scottish Cancer Drug Fund.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

Contacted Scottish Ministry of Health- I sent an email to the Scottish Ministry of Health on the 26th May 2011 asking why a Scottish Cancer Drugs Fund was not set up in Scotland and giving reason why I think it would be a good service to implement. I was sent a reply on behalf of the Minister for Health which gave me ,in detail, the Scottish Governments plans on drug availability. For example the fact that the Scottish Government has published guidance for NHS boards to make decisions in relation to newly licensed medication.

The reply mainly focussed on the Scottish Governments plans on cancer drugs and what they intend to do without the implementation of a cancer drugs fund.

Contacted MSP Iain Gray to take issue up on my behalf. I emailed my MSP asking whether he would support and raise this issue on my behalf. However due to party policy he could not and he emailed me back with a reply. I emailed back conveying my disappointment at this and about his response in generally.

Petition background information

Recently The Westminster government set up a £600 million Cancer Drug Fund where £200 million would be made available each year. Before this was implemented the Ministry of Health discovered that the British uptake of modern drugs for cancer is one of the lowest in the World. For example recent analysis showed that Britain ranked 12th out of 14 other countries including most of Western Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. To combat this, the Ministry of Health in England set up the Cancer Drug Fund.

However the funding is only being made available to English patients and not Scottish. This will create an inequality between cancer patients in Scotland and in England with English patients being better off than Scottish. This would simply be catastrophic considering Scottish cancer survival rates has been discovered to be the lowest in Europe for example only 48% of women survive cancer and only 40.2% of men

surviving after diagnosis. This is poor considering in England it is 52.7% and in Ireland it is 51.9%. The Scottish Government made clear it wishes to see a 20% reduction in mortality rates. The implementation of a Scottish Cancer Drug Fund making modern drugs available the 20% reduction can be made reality.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01407>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

NO

How many signatures have you collected so far?

17

Closing date for collecting signatures online

N/A

Comments to stimulate online discussion