



St. Margaret of Scotland Hospice

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Chairman

29 July 2010

Mr Franck David
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
Tower 4, TG01
The Scottish Parliament
Holyrood
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr David

PE1105

We refer to the letter submitted to the Petitions Committee on 27 July 2010 from Mr Robert Calderwood, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Chief Executive.

Whilst we have already submitted a response to the question posed by the Committee, we felt it important to clarify a statement made in Mr Calderwood's response. The final paragraph of Mr Calderwood's letter states "on the 7th May, the Board issued a draft service level agreement with an associated increase of funding of £85,000 for 2010/2011 to St Margaret's. The Hospice has not yet responded." The Health Board did indeed issue a service level agreement. However, we would respectfully request the Committee note:

1. This was not a "draft service level agreement" – it was in final form, signed on behalf of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde by Ms Anne Harkness, Director of Rehabilitation and Assessment Directorate.
2. The £85,000 Mr Calderwood referred to was in fact for 2009/2010 and not 2010/2011 – this is money which should have been paid to the Hospice and has been withheld. In Anne Harkness' letter to the Hospice of 12 April 2010 she stated "You are correct in stating that the additional recurring funding detailed in my letter (£85k) has not yet been paid to the Hospice. However in terms of the calculation, it is a commitment we are proposing and for which we have funds available so should we reach agreement on the SLA. The calculation therefore illustrates what the position would be if that takes place. This would bring the total recurring funding relating to 2009/10 to £1.091m for Specialist Palliative Care."
3. We were advised at a meeting on 30 April 2010 the £85,000 additional monies would only be paid when we signed the service level agreement – at best, this is coercion. In fact, Mr Bannon, a former NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board member in attendance at the meeting, stated he believed this was "tantamount to blackmail".
4. The Hospice did respond on 25 June 2010 by email to Anne Harkness stating "We acknowledge your letter enclosing the SLA. This can only be dealt with pending the outcome of further meetings and discussions between the Hospice Chairman, Professor Leo Martin, and the Health Board Chairman, Andrew Robertson. Anne, I hope this is helpful." It is therefore disingenuous of Mr Calderwood to suggest the Hospice has not responded as the Hospice always responds to all correspondence with the Health Board.

We would ask the Petitions Committee to note the content of this letter in addition to the previous submission.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely

Professor Leo Martin
Chairman

Dr B.O. Williams, Vice President

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