

Address: 110 George Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 4LH

Telephone: 0845 146 1010  
Fax: 0845 146 1009

Website: [www.audit-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk)

3 April 2009

Mr Franck David  
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
TG.01  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr David

**Consideration of Petition PE1105**

Thank you for your letter of 4<sup>th</sup> March in relation to this petition. You asked me to respond to the following question:

*What bearing does the report by Audit Scotland on the review of palliative care services in Scotland have on the issues raised by the petitioner in terms of future funding?*

I note that the second part of petition PE1105 asks the Scottish Government to investigate *whether arrangements for funding palliative care provision at hospices in the context of HDL (2003) 18 are fair and reasonable*. HDL (2003) 18 states that NHS boards are expected to fund 50 per cent of the agreed annual running costs of independent voluntary hospices providing specialist palliative care in their area.

My review of palliative care services in Scotland, published in August 2008, collected data from NHS boards and hospices on their funding in 2006/07. We found that NHS boards funded between 41 and 53 per cent of hospices' agreed running costs in that year (Annex 1). Only three of the 13 hospices received at least 50 per cent of agreed running costs, and a further one hospice received 49 per cent. In carrying out the study, we found that some boards and hospices had difficulties agreeing what should be included in 'agreed running costs'.

Following its consideration of my report, the Parliament's Public Audit Committee published its own report, *Review of palliative care services in Scotland*, on 14 January 2009. Given the concern about the application of the HDL guidance, the Committee recommended that *the Scottish Government issues guidance to boards on what should be included in their funding allocation to voluntary sector bodies, to supplement existing guidance*. In its response to the Committee, the Scottish Government indicated that it would review the current guidance with a view to updating the HDL after it has reviewed all the NHS board delivery plans against *Living and Dying Well*, the national action plan for palliative and end of life care. The action plans were due to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 31 March 2009. In its report, the Committee requested that I examine the delivery plans and advise it on whether they capture all of the action points contained in *Living and Dying Well* and address the recommendations made in *Review of palliative care services in Scotland*. I hope to report to the Public Audit Committee on this by June.

I hope this response is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

**Robert W Black**  
Auditor General for Scotland

**Annex 1. Board funding of agreed hospice running costs, 2006/07**

Hospice	Funding board(s)	Board funding of agreed hospice running costs 2006/07 (£m)	Total hospice agreed running costs 2006/07 (£m)	Percentage of agreed hospice funding provided by NHS boards (%)
Accord	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	0.91	1.86	49
Ardgowan	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	0.86	1.84	47
Ayrshire	NHS Ayrshire & Arran	1.78	4.00	44
Bethesda	NHS Western Isles	0.23	0.46	51
Highland	NHS Highland	0.97	2.35	41
Marie Curie, Edinburgh	NHS Lothian	1.57	3.60	44
Marie Curie, Glasgow	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	1.77	3.76	47
Prince & Princess of Wales	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	1.37	3.00	46
St Andrew's	NHS Lanarkshire	1.99	4.53	44
St Columba's	NHS Lothian	2.21	4.81	46
St Margaret's	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	0.92	1.83	50
St Vincent's	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	0.81	1.53	53
Strathcarron	NHS Forth Valley NHS Lanarkshire	1.66	3.54	47

Source: Review of palliative care services in Scotland, Audit Scotland, August 2008 (exhibit 9, page 19).