

PE1105/PPP

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Email of 7 April 2015

Dear Ms Robinson

I write in response to the queries raised in your letter of the 4th of March 2015 following the Parliamentary Petitions Committee meeting convened on the 3rd of March 2015.

Access to Hospice Information

“The Committee would therefore be grateful if you could clarify what level of information about the Board’s funding of hospices it is willing to make available and to whom.”

Response –

The level of funding provided to all Hospices is in the public domain and copies of the Service Level Agreements have been made available to all parties who have requested them. It is also published in each Hospice’s annual accounts. Detailed financial information of the running costs of any Hospice is commercial in confidence to them, and any requests the NHS Board has had for that information has come as a Freedom of information request and the Board has responded in line with the legislation governing such requests.

Appointment of Independent Reviewer

In relation to the Committee receiving:

‘a submission from the petitioner raising concerns about the independence and neutrality of Grant Thornton, who the Committee were advised has previously obtained work with the Board and the Scottish Government. As such, the Committee seeks clarification from the Board as to how Grant Thornton was selected as the independent third party to conduct the accountancy review. ... was the decision to appoint Grant Thornton reached jointly between the parties and were all parties given the option to choose Grant Thornton from a shortlist of other candidates? What measures were taken prior to shortlisting to ensure that the candidates selected were independent of the parties involved? Does the Board share the petitioner’s concerns about Grant Thornton’s potential conflict of interest and would the Board be willing to consider reappointing a third party who has no previous connection with any of the parties involved?’

Response –

The independent reviewer was appointed by the Scottish Government. Both parties to the review – the NHS Board and St Margaret's of Scotland Hospice were given the opportunity to propose alternative suggestions to Grant Thornton in April 2014. A copy of the communication is attached below as Appendix 1 for reference. The NHS Board has no concerns about Grant Thornton as an appointee and made no suggestions. The NHS Board is not aware of the issues raised by the petitioner, should the Scottish Government wish to appoint another reviewer, the NHS Board will participate in that process as it did in 2014.

Appendix 1

From:
Sent: 09 April 2014 12:40
To:
Cc:
Subject: Public Petition PE 1105 - Draft terms of reference for accountancy review and suggested firm - 9th April 2014

Dear All,

At our meeting on the 9th October 2013 it was agreed that there were 3 key issues that required resolution. And that these issues would be subject to an accountancy review process.

Following discussions with our Scottish Government Finance colleagues we would like to propose Grant Thornton as a firm well placed to carry out this work. Alternative suggestions are of course welcome but we thought it would be helpful to propose a suitable firm to take forward this work.

I have also attached draft terms of reference for this work for your consideration. Dates for commencement and completion of this work are still to be added.

If you have any further questions or comments please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With best wishes,
Sinéad

Regards,

John C Hamilton, Head of Board Administration, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde