

### **Statement regarding Petition 1179**

The Neurological Alliance of Scotland is a forum of not-for-profit organisations and groups representing many thousands of people affected by neurological conditions in Scotland. The Alliance was launched in 2004 to ensure that neurological services are given priority at all levels of health and social care planning.

The Alliance has been made aware of the above petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce a separate and distinct health and community care client category of 'acquired brain injury' (ABI) to ensure that people with ABI and their carers get the services and support they need and agencies can plan and deliver services more effectively.

The Alliance acknowledges that support services for ABI have been under resourced in the past and a co-ordinated approach to support and care is essential to meet the wide range of individual needs identified by those affected. It is important that health and social care services are integrated and any gaps in service provision are addressed.

The Alliance thus welcomes any initiative which would raise awareness and improve services for those with ABI whilst acknowledging the positive shift already made with the introduction of the Managed Clinical Network and the forthcoming Clinical Standards for Neurological Health Services currently in development by Quality Improvement Scotland.