

PE1179/Q

Dear Mr. Cochrane,

Petition PE1179 – Acquired Brain Injury Services

I refer to the my Petition above.

Further to your Alison Wilson's email of 19th November 2009 to me (copied below), some members of **BrainIAC** had a meeting with Mr. Will Scott and other Scottish Government health service representatives last Monday 18th January 2010 in St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh.

As we understand, this meeting was called to allow the Healthcare Policy and Strategy Directorate officials to explain their thinking on **BrainIAC**'s Petition **1179** for a separate and distinct health and community care client category for Acquired Brain Injury (**ABI**).

The meeting was certainly successful in its aim, and **BrainIAC** is now further aware of the thinking of this section of health professionals in improving **ABI** services for the future.

It was intimated in the above email that the health officials we met would be sending a note of the meeting to you by next Friday 22nd January, and that **BrainIAC** are expected to comment on this note by next Monday (25th). I am not at all sure whether we can achieve this timescale.

No Local Authority/Social service representatives were present at the meeting; our impression being that they fell outside the direct remit of the Healthcare Policy and Strategy Directorate. However, **BrainIAC** is aware of significant variations and deficiencies in the provision of the long term community care and social services for **ABI** that are the responsibility of Local Authorities - this was one of the primary reasons for presenting petition **1179**. The responses to our petition from the Association of Social Work Directors and the Primary and Community Care Directorate did not offer us reassurance that these problems were either fully appreciated or likely to be addressed in current planning.

As we have not had the opportunity to hear in any detail at all how the social/community care services are expected to effect improvements on their 'side' of **ABI** services, we certainly do not want our Petition to be closed by the Committee at this stage.

We look forward to receiving your advice on this matter.

Yours truly,

Helen Moran
Chairperson
BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN