

PE1179/V

Healthcare Policy and Strategy
Directorate

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By Email

Alison Wilson
Assistant Clerk to the
Committee
Public Petitions
Committee
TG.01
The Scottish Parliament

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Your ref: Petition PE1179
23 July 2010

Dear Alison,

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1179: ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

Thank you for your letter of 7 May 2010 in which you asked for a response from the Scottish Government to the issues raised in the Petitioners' letter to the Committee of 8 April 2010.

The Petitioners seek to define acquired brain injury (ABI) as a distinct health and community care category, in the hope that in doing so the problem would be better defined, thereby bringing more rigour and discipline in the planning of ABI services.

We remain convinced that the work of the ABI MCN offers the best mechanism for addressing BrainIAC's concerns, while also providing an effective vehicle for BrainIAC's involvement in the shaping and future development of services.

We are encouraged in that view by the Petitioners' approval of the standards developed by the MCN as a suitable basis for service planning purposes. We would support the use of these standards as a practical way of addressing the service issues that concern the Petitioners.

I was very pleased to see from the Petitioners' letter of 8 April that BrainIAC has now nominated a representative to the MCN sub-group which is taking forward work to develop the MCN into a Managed Care Network. The provision of social care for people with ABI appears to be the Petitioners' main concern, and BrainIAC's participation in the MCN sub-group will, I am sure, help to identify and address some

of the gaps that currently exist between health and social care and to take that work forward in a fully person-centred way.

In response to the Petitioner's comment that simply raising awareness of the work of the ABI MCN within NHS Boards will not improve services, I should like to point out that it is always important to make sure those in local systems know about national initiatives that have a bearing on the care needs of their resident populations. The aim of alerting NHS Boards' long term conditions leads is an important aspect of encouraging service improvement, by promoting better links between the various clinical teams that people living with ABI may encounter.

I hope the information in this letter, the terms of which have been approved by the Minister for Public Health and Sport, will be of assistance to the Committee in its further consideration of the Petition.

Yours sincerely,

W S SCOTT