

Frank McAveety MSP
Convener, Public Petitions Committee
TG.01
The Scottish parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

24th August 2010

Dear Mr. McAveety,

Open Petition PE1179 - Brain Injury Awareness Campaign

BrainIAC was formed because of the serious deficiencies in the Healthcare and Social Services provision for individuals with an Acquired Brain Injury (**ABI**) and for their carers. A Public Petition **PE1179** was submitted to the Parliamentary website on 13th May 2008 and thereafter **BrainIAC's** case was presented to the Petitions Committee on 9th September 2008. **BrainIAC's** hope and belief was that the Petitions Committee could, and if the case was proven, **would** influence Healthcare and Social Service policy to improve, in our view, the thoroughly unsatisfactory and basically unfair nature of the situation.

BrainIAC is very disappointed at the response of 23rd July 2010 from the Healthcare Policy and Strategy Directorate which does not give any concrete assurances of measures which might alleviate the situation in the foreseeable future. Nor has there been any response from the Association of Directors of Social Work to indicate how their presently patchy **ABI** care provision will be improved. In both situations **BrainIAC** believes acceptance of **PE1179**, recognising **ABI** as a distinct health and community care category, could stimulate improvement.

We seem to have reached somewhat of an impasse as latterly both we and the Government's unit responsible for healthcare planning and strategy appear to have been repeating arguments made at the start of the Petitions process. In view of the Government's resistance to change in this matter, **BrainIAC** suggests that Petition **PE1179** should remain open and that both the Healthcare Policy and Strategy Directorate and the Association of Directors of Social Work be asked to indicate in perhaps a year's time what, if any, progress has been made in improving the services for the hidden epidemic of **ABI** using the models they have suggested. If improvements can be demonstrated at that stage, then **BrainIAC** would be satisfied to see our petition being closed as our objectives will have been partly achieved.

Yours truly,

Helen Moran, Chairperson

For, and on behalf of, the Brain Injury Awareness Campaign (**BrainIAC**) August 2010

[Via email from Helen Moran, BrainIAC Chairperson (serviceuserforum@gmail.com)]