

PE1384/K

**Chief Nursing Officer, Patients, Public and Health Professions
Directorate**

Jacqui Lunday, Chief Health Professions Officer



**The Scottish
Government**

T: 0131-244 2311 F: 0131-244 3465
E: jacqui.lunday@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Alison Wilson
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



9 January 2012

Dear Ms Wilson

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2011 to Ann Lilico, Office of DG Health and Social Care, seeking a written response to the following questions:-

How does the Scottish Government see SLT fitting into its preventative spend agenda and how is this reflected in the draft budget? What is the Scottish Government doing to encourage Health Boards to invest in SLT services to secure savings in other health service areas in furtherance of the preventative spend agenda?

The Scottish Government recognises that a number of services provided by Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) have the potential to make significant contributions to the preventative spend agenda, these include radiography reporting of plain films; the development of a national community Musculoskeletal (MSK) pathway using a central referral management and triage service; and falls prevention as well as services provided by speech and language therapists. We are aware of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists to evaluate the health economic benefits of specific speech and language therapy interventions.

The evidence base to support changes to this range of services and the pace of change are at different stages of development/implementation and we were not in a position to reflect these in the draft budget when it was being agreed. This work will be further investigated as part of the national AHP Delivery Plan, which is due to be published for consultation within the next month or so.

Yours sincerely

JACQUI LUNDAY
Chief Health Professions Officer