

**Healthcare Quality and Strategy Directorate**  
Planning and Quality Division

Ms Sigrid Robinson  
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

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18 December 2015

Dear Ms Robinson

**PERNICIOUS ANAEMIA PETITION PE1408 – COMMENTS ON GP ADVICE**

I refer to your letter of 2 December, sent on behalf of the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee (PCC), which asks the Scottish Government (SG) to respond to issues raised by the Petitioner in her submission dated 26 November.

Since these issues relate to advice for GPs that was developed by the Scottish Haematology Society (SHS), SG officials have sought the views of its members. Unfortunately, SHS' comments will not be available until the end of January, at the earliest. Clinicians who support SHS are particularly busy at this time of year with significant pressures including the extra demands of keeping services running over the festive holiday period.

We will not therefore be able to meet your deadline of 5 January because this doesn't provide sufficient time for SHS to consult its members and then send us comments to consider in our response to PCC. We would, however, hope to be able to respond by mid-February.

I hope that the PCC understands the position.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Porterfield  
Head of Strategic Planning & Clinical Priorities