

Our ref:
Your ref:
Date: 3rd May 2012

Ms A Peat
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Dear Ms Peat

Petition PE1402 calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to develop and instigate a strategy and policy for diagnosis and treatment for adult ADHD

We welcome the work undertaken in developing the mental health strategy for Scotland and in particular the intention to include a commitment in the Mental Health Strategy to look at development of services for adults with ADHD under the wider heading of neuro developmental disorders. We do however ask that the Petition remains open until there is a commitment to providing a strategy and policy for adult ADHD, if not as a separately identified clinical pathway then, included and embedded in the integrated approach including all neuro developmental disorders, that is under consideration.

The integration of adult ADHD services with other neuro developmental disorder services that currently have a separate policy and strategy, such as autism and Aspergers Spectrum Disorder, will need to be explored in detail and the wide variability of service provision across Scotland must be address. This is currently, we understand, forming part of the local area write-ups and national report to be published in Summer 2012 and mentioned in the HIS letter to the Petitions Clerk dated 25th January.

The Minister for Public Health, at the seminar on 20th March, gave a clear message that development services for adults with developmental disorders, including ADHD, is a priority under the mental health strategy.

We continue to receive numerous case examples from our members which demonstrate that primary health care is unfamiliar/unwilling and often lacks satisfactory guidance on criteria for making referrals for adults with ADHD.

Richard Jones
For and on behalf of Addressing the Balance