

PE1404/Z

The Quality Unit: Health and Social Care Directorates

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David Stewart MSP
Convenor of the Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

9 May 2013

Dear Mr Stewart,

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT PUBLIC PETITION ON ACCESS TO INSULIN PUMPS

Thank you for your letter of 21 March 2013 to Michael Matheson, Minister for Public Health about Petition, PE1404, lodged by Stephen Fyfe on behalf of Diabetes UK Scotland, which calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to conduct an immediate review into the provision of insulin pump therapy (CSII) in Scotland in order to address the low and inequitable access across the country.

In your letter you ask for information on what support the Scottish Government will provide to those NHS Boards that are not meeting the commitment set out in the Chief Executive Letter CEL 4 (2012) on insulin pump therapy.

The CEL published in February 2012, sets out our overarching approach for supporting an increase in access to insulin pump therapy for people of all ages with type 1 diabetes.

As you are aware, a number of NHS Boards have not made as much progress as would be desired. NHS Highland and NHS Lanarkshire have found increasing their provision challenging as they did not have a paediatric insulin pump service in place in early 2012.

In 2012 the Scottish Government made £136,462 and £217,469 worth of insulin pumps and consumables available to NHS Highland and NHS Lanarkshire respectively.

Following this investment, on more than one occasion, we invited all boards and their diabetes Managed Clinical Networks to let us know what further support the Scottish

Government could provide them to help them build the capacity of their local insulin pump services.

In addition diabetes Managed Clinical Networks were invited to bid for funds from the Diabetes Action Plan Implementation fund. It was emphasised that bids designed to support local insulin pumps services would be prioritised. Funding is being allocated to:

- NHS Lanarkshire to support the development of structured education services for adults with type 1 diabetes in (Structured education is often a prerequisite of accessing insulin pump therapy).
- NHS Highland for a pilot project to test feasibility of virtual support for people with type 1 diabetes.

As soon as monitoring arrangements identified that NHS Highland and NHS Lanarkshire were off trajectory we arranged for our Lead Clinician on Diabetes and our Diabetes Adviser to visit those boards and offer further support and advice. These visits have helped us better understand the local challenges that these services face and have helped informed our plans and those of the local service for 2013/14.

We have also asked all Boards to provide details of any further support that is needed to help meet the commitments set out in the CEL and maintain an ongoing and regular dialogue with Boards on this topic.

I apologise for the delay in providing this information. However I hope that the material in this letter, the terms of which have been cleared with the Minister for Public Health, is of assistance to the Committee in its further consideration of the Petition.

Yours sincerely,

TOM PILCHER