

PE1408/Q

**The Quality Unit**

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10 June 2014

Dear Mr Sharratt

**CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE 1408 - PERNICIOUS ANAEMIA**

Thank you for your email of 19 May 2014, concerning Petition PE 1408, lodged by Mrs Andrea MacArthur, which calls on the Scottish Parliament to review and overhaul the current out-dated and ineffective method of diagnosing and treating Pernicious Anaemia/vitamin B12 Deficiency. The Committee has advised of the following development and asked the latest question:

**“The Committee had deferred its consideration of this petition until the BCSH published guidelines on the diagnosis of B12 and folate deficiency. The guidance is now published here:**

**[http://www.bcsguidelines.com/4\\_HAEMATOLOGY\\_GUIDELINES.html](http://www.bcsguidelines.com/4_HAEMATOLOGY_GUIDELINES.html)**

**The Scottish Government had undertaken to disseminate these guidelines to clinicians once they became available. In light of the newly published guidelines, I would be grateful if the Scottish Government could confirm the next steps it will take and any other comments on this matter.”**

I can confirm that the Scottish Government is aware that the British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH) has recently updated its guidelines on the diagnosis of B12 and folate deficiency and made these available on its website. The Scottish Government understands that these will also be published in the British Journal of Haematology. The Scottish Government is currently considering these guidelines and we have alerted the Scottish Haematology Society to this publication, requesting that they alert their members to these guidelines.

I hope that the Committee finds this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely

Sinead Power  
**Team Leader**  
**Clinical Priorities Team**