

**PE1408/W**

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

T: 0131-244 3308

E: Elizabeth.porterfield@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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

---

11 March 2015

Dear Ms Robinson

Thank you for your letter of 14 January 2015, about Petition PE 1408, lodged by Mrs Andrea MacArthur, which calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review and overhaul the current out-dated and ineffective method of diagnosing and treating Pernicious Anaemia/Vitamin B12 Deficiency.

In your letter, you advised that the Committee has the following requests:

- To notify the Public Petitions Committee when the timetable for the development of the Scottish guidelines is agreed; and
- To include and consult with the petitioner in the development of the Scottish guidelines.

I can confirm that the Scottish Government is working with National Specialist and Screening Services Directorate (NSD) to prepare Scottish guidelines on the treatment of B12 and folate disorders. There is no formal timetable, however, draft guidelines are being considered by relevant healthcare professionals and it is anticipated that these should be completed by this autumn. We would be happy to share a draft of the guidelines with the petitioner when available.

The Committee may also wish to be aware that discussion is also underway on the possible creation of a Managed Diagnostic Network for haematology which would have a role in any future guidance development.

I hope that the Committee finds this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Porterfield  
Head, Strategic Planning/Clinical Priorities