

PE1460/F

British Medical Association
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David Stewart MSP
Convener
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament

Scotland National Office

30 January 2013

Dear Mr Stewart

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1460

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to (a) hold a debate on the matter with a vote or voting rights (b) transfer more of the management for chronic pain into primary care (c) provide more social model care instead of medical model (d) change its policy to provide direct funding to ensure radical improvements to the service can be made including establishing a residential unit in Scotland to prevent Scottish pain patients being sent to Bath in Somerset for treatment.

Thank you for inviting the BMA to make a submission in relation to Petition PE1460. We would like to make the following comments:

Primary care already deals with the great majority of chronic pain cases. However, there needs to be the option to refer to a specialist pain service for particularly difficult cases. Any further transfer of work to primary care would have to be evidence based, be accompanied by appropriate resources and would need to be discussed/negotiated with the relevant professional organisation.

Scottish Secretary: Martin Woodrow
Chief Executive/Secretary: Tony Bourne

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With regard to whether there should be a more social model of care instead of a medical model, we believe that pain management should be treated in a manner that is evidence based and cost effective.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Reilly
BMA Scotland Public Affairs Officer