



PE1463/GG

24 January 2014

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

Dear Ms Peat

Re: PE01463: Effective thyroid and adrenal testing, diagnosis and treatment

I write in support of the above named petition PE01463 on effective thyroid and adrenal testing, diagnosis and treatment lodged in the names of Sandra Whyte, Marian Dyer and Lorraine Cleaver. The ALLIANCE is the national third sector intermediary for a range of health and social care organisations. Our vision is for a Scotland where people who are disabled or living with long term conditions and unpaid carers have a strong voice and enjoy their right to live well.

Hypothyroidism is a long term condition in which the thyroid gland produces insufficient amounts of Thyroxine. This can result in symptoms such as tiredness, weight gain and depression. It is estimated that around 3.7% of patients registered with a GP practice in Scotland have been diagnosed with hypothyroidism¹ and around 103,000 people are seen annually by either a GP or practice nurse².

The ALLIANCE would like to Committee to note our general support for the views expressed in the petition. The ALLIANCE would express particular concern the problems of diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disease in Scotland and our belief that that action should be taken to ensure that GPs and endocrinologists are able to accurately diagnose this condition.

¹ <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/General-Practice/Quality-And-Outcomes-Framework/Information-for-users-of-QOF-register-and-prevalence-data.asp#Hypothyroidism>

² <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/General-Practice/GP-Consultations/>

Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)
Venlaw Building, 349 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 4AA
T: 0141 404 0231 E: info@alliance-scotland.org.uk
www.alliance-scotland.org.uk



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As identified in the SPICE briefing³, there are no existing national clinical guidelines on the diagnosis and management of hypothyroidism for the NHS in Scotland. Such a publication could be of significant benefit to people who experience hypothyroidism across Scotland, and the ALLIANCE would urge the Committee to give this greater consideration when making recommendations for future action.

For more information please contact Andrew Strong, Policy and Information Officer on 0141 404 0231 or andrew.strong@alliance-scotland.org.uk

www.alliance-scotland.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Ian Welsh
Chief Executive, Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland

³ <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/PB13-1463.pdf>

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