

Andrew Howlett
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



17th May 2012

Dear Andrew

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT PUBLIC PETITION PE1463 ON EFFECTIVE THYROID AND ADRENAL TESTING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

Thank you for your letter of 25th April 2013 asking the Scottish Government whether it will establish a short life working group (SLWG) to examine all of the available clinical evidence on the treatment of patients suffering from thyroid and adrenal disorders.

In order to assess the best way forward I have undertaken a small number of activities which I trust will contribute to the assessment of clinical evidence and will inform a decision as to whether a SLWG is required and would realise benefit.

- Upon advice from the Chief Medical Officer Special Adviser for Endocrinology I have written to the British Thyroid Association (BTA) seeking their advice on the issues within the petition, any evidence they are aware of which they feel should be considered and advice as to practices in the diagnosis and treatment of hypothyroidism across the rest of the UK. I am awaiting a response.
- Via the Scottish Government Diagnostic Steering Group advice has been sought from the diagnostic managed clinical networks across Scotland to further inform our understanding of the issues with TSH only testing. We are also seeking advice on the appropriateness of the current range of results which are 'normal' and insight into the role of laboratory staff in interpreting test results. I am awaiting a response.
- An approach has been made to the Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) at Healthcare Improvement Scotland requesting an evidence note be prepared on the available published evidence on current testing and treatment of hypothyroidism.

Assuming this request is accepted into the work plan such pieces of work are generally completed in around 4-6 months.

We would ask that the committee await the completion of the above work and further advice from Scottish Government on the need (or otherwise) for a SLWG to be formed following collation of the responses from the diagnostic MCN's, the BTA and the SHTG.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Dunk
Unit Head – Clinical Priorities