

PE1471/V

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Andrew Howlett  
Assistant Clerk  
Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament

Date  
Your Ref  
Our Ref CS/ms  
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Dear Mr Howlett

### **Scottish Parliament Petition PE1471 – Response from NHS Tayside**

The overall drive within petition of providing appropriate physical facilities for adolescents and for adolescents being cared for by suitably trained staff is wholly supported by staff within NHS Tayside.

The service tries to reflect this in the following ways:

- There are separate adolescent social areas within the paediatric ward at Ninewells
- Where possible adolescents who are admitted to adult wards are given the option of a side room
- There is case by case discussion for some adolescents regarding whether a paediatric or adult ward environment would be more appropriate
- Transition services are being developed in all specialities but are currently at various stages of maturity and sophistication
- Several clinics are provided specifically with a focus on adolescents e.g. Oncology late effects clinic and Teenage epilepsy service
- Adolescent health and transition teaching is incorporated within the medical speciality trainee programme
- Nurse and AHPs who have responsibility for adolescent care undertake training opportunities that are appropriate to their area of work.

The potential to develop an adolescent area with district staffing will be actively considered for any future development of our Children's Services, however significant challenges relating to the low number of adolescents in Ninewells Hospital at any given time. In addition, the need to have access to appropriate nursing/medical staff and equipment across all the different specialities provides an even greater challenge to providing a safe service.

Yours sincerely

**Caroline Selkirk**  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**NHS Tayside**