

**PE1482/D**

Petitioner Email of 16 January 2014

Dear Chris

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the letter from Richard Norris, dated 29<sup>th</sup> December 2013. My observations are as follows:

1. Mr Norris says the role of the Scottish Health Council (SHC) is not “to speak directly on behalf of patients and the public”, but “to support patient focus and public involvement in and by the NHS, including providing support and facilitation for gathering and collating patient and public views on particular topics.” It is difficult to understand the point of “gathering and collating patient and public views” if the SHC has no responsibility for ensuring that actions are taken in response to these views. Is it possible to clarify the purpose of the SHC in gathering this information?
2. Mr Norris goes on to say that the SHC has “no formal advisory role in terms of public engagement by the Scottish Government.” This seems a lost opportunity for the government to learn about the concerns of patients and the public. Is it possible for the role of the SHC to be extended in this respect?
3. It is reassuring the SHC believes that the Scottish Government’s single room presumption “would have benefitted from public engagement and consultation.” The question arises therefore why, in this era of consultation and participation, that this did not take place?

I hope that the Committee will be able to seek answers to these questions.

Yours sincerely,

John Womersley