

Sigrid Robinson
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP



30 April 2015

Dear Sigrid

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1493

Thank you for your letter of 1 April seeking confirmation of agreed timeframes.

My letter to the Committee dated 25 January explained that the Scottish Government considered it was essential in moving forward to seek wider views from the people of Scotland on what they think a robust, transparent and proportionate response to the issues raised in the petition should look like in 2015 and beyond. The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport's update of 24 February highlighted that work had already started assessing the best way to engage patients and the public in these issues and consultation was planned in 2015.

We have been in discussion with the Scottish Health Council (SHC) on how best to engage with patients and the public over the issues involved and I am pleased to report that SHC consider this to be a valuable and interesting area of work and will undertake engagement, using their networks across Scotland, with outputs available in autumn 2015.

I hope this information is helpful and as we've said before, the Scottish Government would be happy to consider any recommendations from the Committee on this issue.

Yours sincerely

KATHRYN FERGUSSON
Head of Medicines Branch