

## **PE1408/GG**

Scottish Government letter of 26 July 2016

Thank you for your letter of 4 July 2016 regarding the Public Petitions Committee's continued consideration of petition PE1408 (Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review and overhaul the current out-dated and ineffective method of diagnosing and treating Pernicious Anaemia/ Vitamin B12 Deficiency).

I will deal with your questions in turn:

**1. Has the summary document drafted by the Scottish Haematology Society been finalised and provided to GPs in Scotland?**

The Scottish Haematology Society (SHS) were asked if they could prepare a summary of the original guidelines provided by the British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BCSH) which were considered too long and technical.

We understand that Dr Richard Soutar SHS member wrote to the Committee on 22 March 2016 to notify that the Society did not have the resources to adapt the BCSH guidelines into the summary document requested. The SHS is an informal group of interested members and their obligation is primarily to their own individual patients.

The SHS are specialists in this field of work there is no other established group able to prepare a summary document.

**2. Has the summary document been, or will it be, published and made available to the wider public?**

Please see answer to question 1 above.

**3. What is the Scottish Government's response to the concerns raised by the petitioner in her submission of 22 February 2016 regarding the frequency of maintenance injections and the advice that is provided to GPs in Scotland on patients who consider they are receiving inadequate levels of injections?**

This is a clinical issue. All treatment decisions are a matter for discussion and agreement between the individual and the doctor concerned.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**Elizabeth Porterfield**

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