

PE1408/KK

Scottish Government Letter of 15 February 2017

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 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).

In response to the Committee's request for clarification of why BCSH (now BSH) guidelines are considered suitable given the previous indication that they were not considered to be suitable for use in a Scottish practice setting, I can confirm that in correspondence of 8 December 2014 it was indicated that it was considered the form (presentation) of the guideline was not suitable – not its content, as under (quote) –

*"I can confirm that the guidelines were considered by the Diagnostic Steering Group (DSG) at their meeting on 11 November 2014. The group agreed the guidelines are not currently presented in a **suitable form** for use in the practice setting and it was agreed that John Burns, Chair of DSG and Aileen Keel, Acting CMO, would formally ask the Scottish Haematology Society (SHS) to prepare a summary document (based on the BCSH guidelines) to provide GPs in Scotland with appropriate guidance on B12 deficiency. The timetable for dissemination to GPs will need to be agreed in discussion with the SHS."*

As you have noted, the SHS has withdrawn drafting a summary document to support the use of the BSH Guidelines, but they remain extant and readily accessible/available for use in clinical practice.