

## **PE1408/NN**

Scottish Government submission of 20 July 2017

Following the meeting on 25 May 2017 and the subsequent letter dated 31 May 2017, requesting further information on the remit and membership of the NHS National Services Division's (NSD) short-life working group on haematology. I have contacted NSD and have been provided with the following response:

The Haematology Short Life Working Group has been established as a subgroup of the Scottish Clinical Biochemistry Managed Diagnostic Network (<http://www.mcns.scot.nhs.uk/scbmdn/>).

The remit of the group is to link all the professionals working in laboratories within the haematology and transfusion services across Scotland in order to:

- Identify key pieces of improvement work that could be progressed within the lifespan of the SLWG
- Scope the need for a standalone NMDN for haematology

At the first meeting, B12 deficiency and the protocols and practice applied to it were discussed. The group noted the current evidence-based practice in place across Scotland and will be happy to review this on presentation of any new evidence.

The SLWG were also keen to ensure that Scottish Government's recently published paper on demand optimisation was adhered to:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/02/5322/1>

The group's chair, Dr Alistair Hart, notes the request for ongoing liaison with the petitioner and a request for a meeting. SLWG activity is at a very early stage and is still to be fully scoped, so a meeting at this stage would be premature.

All ratified minutes of group discussion will be publicly available on the SCBMDN website.

I believe the information above meets the request of the Committee. As noted above the short-life working group have considered the protocols and practice applied to B12 deficiency. The evidence is currently up to date and the Group will not be reviewing it again until there is new evidence. Accordingly, we consider that the request made by the petitioner has been met