

## **PE1533/EE**

Petitioner submission of 28 June 2017

Thank you for continuing to maintain your interest in the question of social care charges throughout Scotland.

I noted that at the Petitions Committee of 25/5/2017 it was proposed that our petition, on ending social care charges (PE1533), and that of Amanda Kopel, on the extension of Free Personal Care (PE1480), were to be considered for separation in their treatment.

I recognise that this is mainly an administrative process and that both petitions will continue to be discussed as appropriate; however, I would ask that, where possible and relevant, you continue to discuss both together.

Our organisation is concerned that decoupling our petitions might act to the detriment of both parties. SACT and the Frank's Law Campaign have benefited from working together and we worry that this decision may see our future paths diverge.

While the Scottish Government is beginning its examination of the extension of Free Personal Care to the under 65s, it is not clear that this will resolve the wishes of many of the petitioners.

For example, some of the services that people with dementia and other long term conditions rely on, such as day services, are out with the current practical definition of Free Personal Care. As a result, such services are charged for now and will still be even if the benefits of FPC are extended to a wider age group.

We are currently only in the feasibility study period of this possible change and it will be a long time before any proposal is brought forward and the dust settles on what any new arrangement will mean for disabled people. It would be unfortunate if decoupling meant that one or other of these petitions were to be lost.