

**PE1783/D**

Scottish Government submission of 17 April 2020

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2020 on behalf of the public Petitions Committee regarding Petition PE1783 on raising public awareness of harder to treat childhood cancers and providing additional funding to finding cures.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that the Scottish Government is committed to improving the early detection of childhood cancer. January 2019 saw a clinical refresh of the Scottish Referral guidelines for Suspected Cancer and includes a specific section on childhood cancers. This will ensure that every GP across Scotland has increased awareness of and access to the most up to date identifiers of childhood cancer.

As the committee will already be aware, the new Cancer Plan for Children and Young People is due for publication. However due to the ongoing situation around coronavirus (COVID-19) this has been delayed. The new plan is currently being drafted and there might be scope to raise awareness for childhood cancer to coincide with publication later this year.

A further consequence of the current situation is that we have temporarily suspended our standard response mode research funding committees – this is the route by which proposals on most areas of research, including research into childhood cancer, would come in for evaluation. However, we fully intend to restart our research funding committees as soon as feasible.