

**PE1723/N**

Neurological Alliance of Scotland submission of 8 March 2021

I am writing as Chair of the Neurological Alliance of Scotland to outline our organisation's support for Petition 1723 from Mary Ramsay. We're aware that this petition has been on the Committee's agenda for some time, and that there has been considerable progress on this issue.

As you may know, the Neurological Alliance of Scotland is an umbrella organisation of neurological charities operating in Scotland. At present, treatments for some neurological conditions are limited, and our members have a shared interest in making sure that people have access to new treatments that can help them to live well with their neurological condition. We are aware that there is a growing evidence base for focussed ultrasound treatment as an effective treatment for some people with essential tremor, and would welcome the petitioner's call for this to be offered to clinically appropriate candidates by NHS Scotland, in line with NHS England's recent decision to make the treatment available to those who can benefit.

There is considerable interest in focussed ultrasound having a role in treating people with a range of other neurological conditions, including Parkinson's, brain tumours and epilepsy, among others. We would welcome a commitment from Scottish Government and other partners to support the University of Dundee and NHS Tayside and other partners to undertake clinical research into the effectiveness of focussed ultrasound as a potential treatment for other neurological conditions.