

PE1845/L

Rural GP Association of Scotland submission of 12 February 2021

The committee of the Rural GP Association of Scotland (RGPAS) would like to register our support for petition PE1845 submitted by Dr Baird and colleagues. RGPAS suggested the need for 'rural proofing' government and health board policy in our document ["Looking at the Right Map? Identifying a positive direction of travel for the future of Scottish general practice"](#) [25 Nov 2017].

We remain concerned at the lack of progress of the Remote and Rural General Practice working group established by the Scottish Government to look at the issues raised by RGPAS. Our former chair, Dr David Hogg, resigned from this working group in 2018 with the support of the RGPAS committee because of lack of progress in addressing the concerns of rural GPs. The situation has, if anything, deteriorated since that time: the working group has not met for over a year and progress is at a complete standstill. This desperate situation would not have been allowed to continue if government was held to account by a Rural Health Commissioner.

Challenges and vulnerabilities faced by remote and rural communities have been highlighted during this Covid 19 pandemic. There is an urgent need to start addressing inequalities faced by our rural communities and by the teams providing medical services to them.