

PE1446/V

The Quality Unit

Planning and Quality Division

T: 0131-244- 2763

E: craig.bell@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Ms Sigrid Robinson
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
T3.40, The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

e-mail:

petitions@scottish.parliament.uk

Sigrid.Robinson@scottish.parliament.uk

Your ref: PE1446

17 December 2015

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION [PE1446](#)

Dear Ms Robinson

Thank you for your email of 8 December, on behalf of the Public Petitions Committee, requesting an update from the Scottish Government on progress with developing congenital heart disease standards.

National Services Division (NSD) has advised that congenital heart disease standards for Scotland are in development. Draft standards were circulated to a small group, which included the petitioner, earlier this year, before being circulated for wider stakeholder consultation. The consultation will take place between 26 October and 18 December, and can be accessed here:

<http://www.sccs.scot.nhs.uk/sccs-standards-consultation-now-open.html>

Once the consultation period comes to an end, NSD will collate the responses in time for the Scottish Congenital Cardiac Advisory Board meeting on 8 January, where the Board will consider whether any revisions need to be made. On completion of this exercise, it is expected that the standards will then be ready for publication in spring 2016.

As the Committee is aware, the Adult Standards Group has agreed to be guided by the principle that Scotland should adopt the English standards unless there is good reason not to, taking into account the need to allow for the specific needs of the service in Scotland and the Scottish ACHD patient population. For example, the service in Scotland will never meet the English standards on staffing numbers, particularly cardiologists and surgeons, because we will not have a volume of patients sufficient to maintain the skills and work plans of a higher number of specialists in line with England.

The service in Scotland must be developed to meet the needs of our Scottish population and balance the need to deliver outreach clinics with ensuring that interventional cardiologists and surgeons are able to treat a sufficient number of patients to be able to maintain their skills.

I hope that this reply, the terms of which have been cleared by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Craig Bell
National Planning Manager