

6th March 2014

Andrew Howlett  
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Howlett

**PE01446: Scottish Standards for the Care of Adult Congenital Heart (ACHD) Patients**

I am responding to the letter dated 21st February, from Craig Bell, The Quality Unit, in response to a request for an update from the Scottish Congenital Cardiac Network (SCCN) about the progress towards the development of national standards of care for people living with adult congenital heart disease (ACHD) in Scotland by the Public Petitions Committee.

As noted by Mr Bell, the SCCN have recently set up a working group to develop Scottish Healthcare Standards for ACHD. This is a very positive step forward for the ACHD population in Scotland and I have been delighted to sit on this group representing The Somerville Foundation. It is very important that this group finalises its work as soon as possible so that these standards can be adopted and implemented by NHS Scotland, ensuring that care is only delivered according to the standards. However, until such time the risks for adults with congenital heart disease remain. Clearly, there is some way to go between such discussion and the adoption and implementation of standards and it is likely obstacles remain. Therefore, it would be helpful if the if the Public Petitions Committee could defer making a decision about the petition to keep an watching brief over the progress.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Liza Morton