

PE1463/KKKK

Petitioner Letter of 7 December 2016

Given the unusually short notice of three days and a close family bereavement, I will be unable to attend this meeting unfortunately. This in no way indicates a lack of interest in the petition or lack of appreciation for the hard work the committee undertake on behalf of it and I reiterate my gratitude for this.

I note the SPICE briefing suggests the committee consider whether a Parliamentary Committee would have the relevant clinical and technical expertise to make clinical recommendations. I posit that most MSPs lack the relevant expertise for many of the nation's pressing issues that come before parliament but they generally make good use of experts in the field for advice and this mini enquiry the committee agreed to consider would be no different. Dr John Midgley was suggested at your last meeting and has confirmed he would be delighted to attend. His vast research in this subject is ongoing and current. Endocrinologist and Researcher Dr Rudolph Hoermann also confirmed an interest in attending.

Running throughout the SPICE briefing and the previous Technologies Scoping Report in 2013 was the very obvious elephant in the room, the fact that guidelines for the use of Thyroid Function Tests are based on generally poor quality evidence. Until these guidelines are revisited and revised, no amount of new research will remedy the problem of poor diagnosis and undertreatment.

I believe a parliamentary committee would be an excellent way to forward these issues in a timely manner and I hope the Petitions Committee agree to take this forward.