

PE1480/AA and PE1533/II

Scottish Government submission of 4 May 2018

Thank you for your letter of 4th April, following the Public Petitions Committee's consideration of the above petitions.

Scottish Government officials have met with both petitioners, Mrs Kopel and Mr Adamson, to discuss the extension of free personal care to under 65s. Mrs Kopel attended the third meeting of the Implementation Advisory Group on 19th March to inform members of the importance and urgency of this reform. Officials met Mr Adamson and colleagues from the Scotland Against the Care Tax (SACT) campaign on 8th March, in a productive meeting around the proposals made by SACT.

The Implementation Advisory Group has been considering the potential increase in demand as a result of the extension of free personal care to under 65s. The group has considered the potential increases from a number of different service user groups, including those with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, and mental health needs.

We have now laid in Parliament the legislation to extend free personal care to under 65s, and as you have noted, this will be considered by the Health and Sport Committee of the Scottish Parliament.

While this will mean that charges will still apply for non-personal care elements of social care, the legislation will mean that personal care charges by local authorities are no longer applicable for anyone in Scotland.

We have noted the proposal from Mr Adamson, and we are working with COSLA and the Implementation Advisory Group on assessing the proposal put forward by SACT.

The assessment and delivery of services to meet care needs for all individuals, including those under the age of 65, will remain a matter for local authorities in exercising their duties under Section 12A of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.