

Finance Committee
Prevention
Submission from Robert Hunter

Response

Dear Sir/Madam

I am what you would describe as an “Expert Patient” in the area of Bronchiectasis Care. Two years ago I created and launched a bronchiectasis support website to encourage patient self management of this chronic condition, and ultimately encourage and support the practice of prevention by giving straightforward, patient friendly and attention grabbing advice on preventative measures. This disease benefits greatly from self understanding and management leading to an accent on preventative measures. I was greatly encouraged by the Scottish Government and the Alliance who awarded me a development fund to help in its creation and publicity. The website is www.bronchiectasishelp.org.uk

I thought that NHS Scotland and the local NHS authorities would support me in such an initiative however their response has been to avoid any link with this unique and enterprising website which has proved to be extremely popular from evidence of feedback responses. Any communications with these authorities has been blanked out even without a courtesy acknowledgement. So it is obvious they are not ready or are unwilling to embrace such initiatives that encourage self management and prevention. Also as a patient I do not see any evidence from Scottish health authorities focusing on preventative programmes.

Many individual health practitioners have acclaimed this website as an extremely valuable support resource to encourage preventative measures with this type of patient, however NHS Scotland remain disinterested and unhelpful.

Regards,

Robert Hunter

Website Creator and Director