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Duncan McNeil MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

26th April 2013

Dear Mr. McNeil,

Re: Response from the Minister after comments to the Committee on 5th March

I thought that you would be interested to see a letter that we recently received, sent on behalf of the Minister. In it he acknowledges the removal of the black triangle on our product ulipristal acetate (ellaOne).

He also states that consideration is being given to the role of this product in Scotland. I think the fact that this is under consideration vindicates the interest that your Committee has taken in the role of emergency contraception in Scotland. Anything further that you are able to do to ensure that a range of choice is made available in this area would be helpful. It might be of interest to know in what context officials are considering ulipristal acetate's use and to what timescale, as well as the nature of its consultation with stakeholders.

Also we would very much like to know whether these deliberations will be made public before a final decision, one way or the other, is made.

Thank you for your interest in this issue to date.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Fraser
General Manager

Encl.

CC. Eugene Windsor

Chief Medical Officer and Public Health Directorate
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22 APR 2013



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18 April 2013

Dear Mr Fraser

Thank you for your letter dated 18th March to Michael Matheson MSP, Minister for Public Health regarding emergency hormonal contraception. I have been asked to respond on Mr Matheson's behalf.

Mr Matheson was referring to the black triangle status of ulipristal acetate (ellaOne) which was in place until November 2012. Mr Matheson is not an expert on all new medicines and was unaware at the time of the Committee meeting that the black triangle marker had been lifted. As Mr Matheson correctly noted during the evidence session ulipristal acetate remains a prescription only medication. The use of Patient Group Directions (PGDs) is a matter for individual NHS Boards.

As part of the delivery of the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework, we work continually with stakeholders to ensure the most appropriate services are made available across Scotland. As part of this on-going work we are currently considering the use of ulipristal acetate (ellaOne) with officials and appropriate stakeholders. I hope that this has reassured you and as such there would be little value in a meeting at this time.

Yours sincerely

Rebekah Carton
Sexual Health and BBV Framework