

PE1591/G

Scottish Health Council Letter of 11 May 2016

Dear Mr Sharratt

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1591 (Major redesign of healthcare services in Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross)

Thank you for the correspondence of 29 February 2016. The Committee has asked the Scottish Health Council for its comments on the petitioners' submission of 15 February. As the Scottish Health Council provided a detailed response to the petitions committee on 18 January 2016, the following comments should be considered as supplementary to this, and in response to the particular points raised on 15 February.

i) Representation

In the response provided to the petitions committee of 18 January 2016, the Scottish Health Council referred to the steering group invitation list and option appraisal membership as being 'broadly representative'. The petitioner refers to this as being incorrect on the basis that it does not include community councils from the Trotternish Peninsula. It is our view that those invited, and those that participated were broadly representative of the communities and groups that we would expect to see as part of the process. This included an invitation to all community councils from the area within which we understand the Trotternish Peninsula to cover.

Representatives from community councils in that area (Portree Community Council and Staffin Community Council) also participated in the location option appraisal exercise. Those invited and those that participated are detailed in Appendix 9 of NHS Highland's report.

ii) Independent Scrutiny

The petitioner refers to a response the Scottish Health Council provided in February 2008 to the consultation titled; "*Independent Scrutiny: the Independent Examination of Proposals for Major Change in NHS services – a Public Consultation*". The response highlights factors that the Scottish Health Council felt were important in considering any future role for Independent scrutiny in major service change. The points highlighted were subsequently considered in the development of current Scottish Government guidance '*Informing, Engaging and Consulting People in Developing Health and Community Care Services*' issued in 2010¹. This describes

¹ 'Informing, Engaging and Consulting People in Developing Health and Community Care Services', Scottish Government, 2010, www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2010_04.pdf

the requirements in major service change and the role of Independent Scrutiny Panels. Within this it states that decisions on establishing Independent Scrutiny Panels rest with Scottish Government Ministers and they may decide to establish an Independent Scrutiny Panel to assess the safety, sustainability, evidence base and value for money of proposals. It details that the role of the panel would not include reaching a view on a preferred option, but that this would remain a decision for the NHS Board to take as part of the option appraisal process.

I hope you find this information helpful in responding to the request.

Yours sincerely

Richard Norris
Director
Scottish Health Council