

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport

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John Pentland MSP
Convener
Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



Dear John,

February 2015

PE 1480 by Amanda Kopel on Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness

I refer to your letter of 15 January 2015 seeking an update on the work being undertaken on access to free personal care for people under 65 with complex needs.

I was happy to meet Amanda Kopel on 29 January to discuss the issues around charging for social care, including in relation to dementia. I explained that I recognise the concerns that have been raised by Amanda Kopel, and others, about fairer charging for social care. The Scottish Government, in partnership with COSLA, has already ensured that no one in the last six months of a terminal illness is charged for the care they receive at home. We are considering very carefully what further action we can take to deliver fairer care for the people of Scotland.

I also gave evidence to the Public Petitions Committee on 27 January on Petition PE1533 from Jeff Adamson, also on charging for social care. At that meeting I gave reassurances to the Committee that the Scottish Government is working with partners in local government and health partners to improve the fairness and consistency of charging for social care.

As I mentioned in my evidence to the Committee, COSLA are currently undertaking work on a new Financial Assessment Template which will lead to more consistency and continuity across local authority boundaries, and we are talking to COSLA about what more we can do to create a fairer charging system.

I hope this is helpful

SHONA ROBISON