

# Edward Mountain MSP submission of 1 June 2022

## PE1890/F: Find solutions to recruitment and training challenges for rural healthcare in Scotland

I am very sorry that I am unable to be present at the Petition Committee on the 8th June. Since my election to the Scottish Parliament in 2016, I have been in constant contact with Caithness Health Action Team (CHAT) regarding concerns about health care provision in the Far North.

“Recruitment and retention challenges have impacted NHS Highland’s ability to deliver fully the health care services that local communities in the region need. This is a historic issue and impacts many health care departments in NHS Highland. Further pressures for recruiting and retaining staff will soon be added due to the outcome of the Moray Maternity review, which will see Raigmore Hospital’s maternity unit redesigned to accommodate Moray mothers.

It is clear that our region needs more access to training and I continue to call for the Scottish Government to establish a Highland Medical School. Along with Labour and Liberal Democrat parliamentarians, I also continue to call for resolutions to key obstacles hindering recruitment efforts, such as rural housing shortages and the need for rural weightings in salary packages.

“Overall, I support the principles of petition PE1890 in the name of Maria Aitken on behalf of CHAT and would respectfully ask that the Committee continues to consider this petition, which is supported across the region.