

Petitioner submission of 12 December 2022

PE1900/L: Access to prescribed medication for detainees in police custody

I watched the Committee today and it was with pride, I watched democracy in action. Angela Constance answered question with clarity and integrity, the question on Dihydrocodeine that it is not to be used en-masse, yet over 33,000 detainees have been given it without consent over an 8 year period.

She agrees that detainees in Grampian have been discriminated against in Police custody, yet Police Scotland refuse to investigate. The question is why, they refuse to investigate, do they feel they would implicate themselves.

Police Scotland know they were giving an unlicensed unapproved drug without consent to detainees in their care. Carole Hunter stated it should have been given by an experienced clinician, it wasn't it was given by an unqualified police custody staff member.

These unqualified staff then triage, titrated and monitored the detainees. Secondly, this treatment is carried out in Kittybrewster and Fraserburgh custody suites, so this is not a unique situation.

The claim by NHS Grampian that they now have full time staff is not factual, they have full time staff at Kittybrewster. The staff at Fraserburgh and Elgin when needed, they work full time in A&E.

The greatest worry is that the scales of justice were unbalanced by the detainees desire to get their medication after reading the draft official report for 07/12/2022.

Angela Constance made, I am sure made an unintentionally incorrect statement, she stated **“We have been engaging on the issues raised by the petitioner in committee with various police and healthcare networks, such as the Police Care Network and, to the best of my knowledge, the only place where there appeared to be an issue was in Elgin. However, I want to be clear—and the guidance and MAT standards are clear—about what should happen.”**

Sadly, this is a totally incorrect statement, since 1st April 2014, NHS Grampian has given the unlicensed unlabelled drug Dihydrocodeine which is inappropriate drug given to detainees without consent. The proof is in the following documents: Police Custody Healthcare and Forensic Medical Services, which has been developed between the Police Service in Scotland and NHS Scotland.

The report in December 2021 by HMICS highlighted Elgin because they visited that custody suite, but detainees in Kittybrewster, Fraserburgh and Elgin are denied their basic human rights. They are discriminated against by being given Dihydrocodeine despite not requesting it or consenting to the change. This abomination of democracy is caused by an inept Healthcare Trust, Grampian being allowed to use its own “unwritten policy” instead of the official guidance!

So, the phrase “**to the best of my knowledge, the only place where there appeared to be an issue was in Elgin.**” Is factually incorrect and therefore incorrect.

The Minister does not apparently realise over 33,000 detainees have been discriminated against in Grampian over 8 years, over 7500 plus in Moray alone.

Relevant links:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cpt/-/council-of-europe-anti-torture-committee-publishes-report-on-the-united-kingdom-focusing-on-police-and-prisons-in-scotland>

<https://www.policecare.scot.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Alcohol-Drugs-and-Tobacco-Healthcare-Services-in-Police-Custody-Guidance-v1.pdf>