

Petitioner submission of 3 January 2023

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

In my view, all your laudable work on the correct medical treatment in Police custody, is being sabotaged by Police Scotland and NHS Grampian's attempts at hiding their total disregard for the Official Guidance, compassion and decency.

The Minister for Drugs Policy stated that detainees still receive Dihydrocodeine not their prescribed methadone. Meaning that what I consider to be an aggressive and inhumane treatment of detainees is still blatantly carried out without a fear of rebuke or punishment.

They left a member of my family naked in a cell for 24hrs despite knowing he was suffering from an overdose after a suicide attempt, the committee will advise me to request a review.

I did 63 working days ago, the response, NHS Grampian says as he was in custody, it's Police Scotland responsibility, yet the welfare/ safety visit was organised by NHS Grampian. NHS Grampian even stated that as he was in custody, monitoring and medication was Police Scotland's responsibility.

Police Scotland have not even appointed an investigating officer? How can this happen in a civilised democratic country in the 21st century? What has gone wrong in Elgin custody suite?

So, the problem appears to be the organisations that are supposed to defend human rights have no joined-up policies. An example is I complained to Police Scotland about treatment of detainees their reply was Medical therefore no their responsibility. PIRC investigated my complaint about Police Scotland giving Dihydrocodeine to detainees, the result was Police Scotland had no case to answer, as medical treatment of detainees is NHS Grampian's responsibility? Surely Police Scotland have a duty of care. So I complained to NHS Grampian and am told it was legal due to their unwritten policy on the treatment of detainees. Even HMICS cannot help. The Scottish Human Rights Commissioner will not get involved as it does not intervene in individual cases? I would have believed over 7500 cases is not a singular issue.

