

# Petitioner submission of 7 March 2024

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

Just as I believe that the committee and myself are reaching the end of a very arduous journey, the road has been littered with half truths and lies. I have just realised there is another pothole in the journey a detainee takes in the justice system.

GeoAmey escorts detainees from the custody suite to the court and onwards to prison, if necessary. Healthcare is subcontracted to a company, Scotchnurse Ltd, this is despite the Scottish Prison Service having a Memorandum of Understanding with NHS Scotland. This means that many safeguards are removed, and extra costs are incurred with this ineffective hybrid system.

Scotchnurse has a staffing problem, so many courts have no medical cover according to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons Scotland (HMIPS). The question is does the court have an Adastracom computer to allow a nurse to input medical information? The answer is no! Why? Because Adastracom is an NHS System.

Does the court have use of the custody nurse? The answer is no. This is why my son was told to walk to ward 4 for mental healthcare, because of a lack of inter connectivity between the trilogy of incompetents. There was no transport or escort.

This unholy trinity needs to have a more joined up approach, there is no lead organisation to coordinate the detainees' medical journey through the criminal system.

The only constant is the NHS. They are there from the start of the journey to the end, if the Scottish Prison Service used NHS Scotland in the court.

Therefore, they should be responsible for the seamless transition of detainees from arrest to sadly, if necessary, incarceration. That the petition that I raised 3 years ago, had led to an admission by the Scottish Government that they could not demonstrate that prisoners

in detention were receiving the medication to which they were entitled **and that this had led to a tragic outcome in one case.**

I feel ashamed that despite all my efforts, at least one death had occurred. I believe the number to be much higher going back to the death of Warren Fenty in 2014. In Grampian, all deaths in Police custody need re-investigating, as they appear to have been just been nodded through the Fatal Accident Inquiry, with the statement that nothing could have been done to prevent the death. Shameful.

A new report led by the University of Glasgow has revealed 244 people have died while detained in custody or under the control of the state in a one-year period in Scotland—an average of four every week.

[https://www.gla.ac.uk/news/headline\\_1042060\\_en.html](https://www.gla.ac.uk/news/headline_1042060_en.html)

The research, which is the first of its kind to be carried out in Scotland, found most of these deaths occurred while people were detained under the Mental Health Act (144). 39 died after having contact with the police, and 38 died in prison between September 2022 and October 2023.

I did not do enough to quickly bring this inhumane situation to an end. The Government and Parliament should have intervened quicker to save further degrading treatment in Police custody. The infliction of forced withdrawal of addicted detainees especially without consent is a form of torture.

We need to get to the cause of this criminality. Police Scotland and NHS Grampian believe that policy is superior to law and they are not bound by the human rights act.

I would again like to thank the committee and Richard Lochhead MSP for their efforts, without which I would still be ploughing through the entanglement of lies and distorted facts.

We often stumble over injustices in life pausing before moving on, occasionally you are compelled to clean the mess up. This is what I am doing with your help hopefully. have realised that the system is metaphorically fly tipping vulnerable human beings, they may be the

underbelly of society but they are citizens of a democratic and fair Scotland. Again, I humbly thank you.