PE2165/B: Raise awareness of and provide educational resources and training for Functional Neurological Disorder (FND)

Petitioner written submission, 5 September 2025

I wish to raise some points regarding the response from the Scottish Government and the SPICe briefing dated in June 2025.

Regarding the government's response I would like to know if patients with FND will be consulted regarding the approaches to improving awareness to GPs. I also understand that Practice Based Small Learning modules is an online learning opportunity for various medical conditions.Will this become mandatory regarding FND and be made available to GPs, A&E staff, paramedics and call handlers? As more and more people are diagnosed with FND and unaware of who to turn to when their own GP cannot support them, neither can NHS 24 or 999 call handlers understand and neither do paramedics. Therefore should the training modules not be mandatory rather than voluntary? These experiences are not just my own; these are experiences of thousands around the country.

Will the information collated via NHS Lothian be available for the public once it concludes in Autumn 2025? Also, any further data collected from NHS Grampian be shared publicly? What are the next steps once this ended?

In creating a social and face to face support group of over 200 members not one person has been made aware of the FND care pathway nor of the Dissociative Seizures app or site. Why is this information not more widely shared?Receiving a diagnosis and given a website to read is not enough support, and furthermore to get any further support or information patients are having to search through the internet to find these very valuable resources. Furthermore, out of the 200+ members none have heard of or been signposted to these sites by any medical practitioners and have not heard of NHS Right Decisions either. Why is none of this shared more publicly within GP practices, hospitals, etc?

Going forward, why are individuals such as myself, those in the support group we have created and those who are living daily with FND having to fight for information to be shared, when we have felt dismissed, medically gaslit and left to fend for ourselves? In regards to raising awareness in workspaces and in the wider community, what opportunities are there for this to be done other than ourselves raising awareness on social media and in our local communities?

NHS England are using the NHS app which is a free app where patients can see their medical appointments, test results and any diagnosis they have. Will this be available on NHS Scotland? This would be beneficial for those with FND and other health conditions for showing and sharing with paramedics, A&E staff etc if for example speech or cognition is impaired due to functional symptoms. It would also benefit the individual and employers as information regarding appointments and medications can also be shared. Due to the app showing historical appointments, referrals, medications and diagnosis it would also be beneficial for the individuals to understand their FND diagnosis and possibly pinpoint a potential risk or cause for FND.