

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

## **Petitioner written submission, 10 February 2026**

Response to Minister for Public Health – October 2025

I am writing in response to your reply regarding Petition PE2165, which calls for greater awareness, education, and training around Functional Neurological Disorder (FND). I appreciate the information provided, and I would like to seek clarification and further detail on several key points.

1. Participation and statutory duty to involve communities: In relation to the statement regarding the NHS's "statutory duty to involve people and communities", how will individuals living with FND be able to meaningfully participate — not only within their local NHS board, but across Scotland and beyond? FND is not solely a Scottish issue; it is a national and global concern due to the ongoing lack of awareness and education. I would appreciate further details on mechanisms that will ensure people with lived experience of FND are fully included in this process.
2. FND Practitioner Programmes: The data I have seen on FND practitioner programmes within NHS Lothian appears very positive, showing reduced waiting times for those already diagnosed, fewer hospital admissions, and improved support for recovery at home. Will similar roles or programmes be implemented within other NHS boards? As a patient in Fife, I have received no input or support with recovery strategies or coping techniques, and I know many others in our community have had similar experiences.
3. GP Training and Care Planning: Your response mentions GP training in NHS Grampian that includes signposting and co-developing care plans with patients. Will this training be extended across all NHS boards in Scotland? Members of our FND Fife and Beyond peer support group have not encountered similar approaches locally, and such consistency would be very valuable.
4. FND in Focus Seminar 2025: Could you provide any feedback or outcomes from the FND in Focus seminar that took place in 2025? Additionally, were individuals with lived experience of FND involved in planning or presenting at the event? Given how misunderstood FND remains — often being dismissed as "not real" or "put on" — involvement of those directly affected is crucial for progress and credibility.
5. Neurology Services Improvement Plans: Regarding the progressing improvement plans for neurology services, will these be made publicly available? Furthermore, will people living with FND be consulted as part of their development? From my experience, patients with this condition are rarely engaged in the consultation process, and greater involvement would ensure their needs are properly represented.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these points. I look forward to your response and to seeing how individuals with FND can play a more active and informed role in shaping future services.