

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport
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John Pentland MSP
Convener
Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



5 May 2015

Dear Mr Pentland,

PE 1480 by Amanda Kopel on Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to raise awareness of the daily issues suffered by people with Alzheimer's and dementia and to ensure that free personal care is made available for all sufferers of this illness regardless of age.

I refer to your letter of 18 March 2015 seeking an update on The Scottish Government's response to the above petition.

I am very sympathetic to the views expressed by Amanda Kopel based upon the difficulties she experienced in caring for her late husband, Frank. As I mentioned in my last letter to the Committee in February, we are working with COSLA and others on creating a fairer and more consistent charging system for everyone in Scotland. Decisions on charging form part of the on-going dialogue and work mentioned above with COSLA and others on ensuring that we have the quantity and quality of social care the people of Scotland require and deserve.

With regard to the first part of the petition, we continue to work with others on implementing Scotland's second National Dementia Strategy to address issues such as accessing timely diagnosis, better post-diagnostic support and better care, treatment and support throughout the course of the illness and in all care settings.

I hope this is helpful

SHONA ROBISON