

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

7th Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Wednesday
17 November 2021

PE1886: Establish a specialist paediatric liver
centre in Scotland

Note by the Clerk

Petition PE1886: Lodged 22/07/21

Petitioner Ryan Gowran

**Petition
summary** Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government
to establish a specialist paediatric liver centre in Scotland.

<https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1886>

Introduction

1. This is a continued petition that has been under consideration since 19 August 2021.
2. The Committee last considered this petition at its meeting on [22 September 2021](#).
3. At the meeting, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government to:
 - highlight concerns expressed by the petitioner in his most recent submission, [PE1886/C](#);
 - to ask whether it will explore what action it could take, or encourage NHS Boards to take, to reimburse families supporting young family members being treated far from home, more quickly; and
 - whether it would be possible to establish a fund to help support lower income families with upfront costs, recognising that it is not always possible to have access to money for travel and accommodation, even if these costs would subsequently be reimbursed.

Scottish Government submission

4. The Scottish Government submission confirms that guidance to NHS Boards on reimbursement of patient travel costs is available. It explains that individual Boards are responsible for developing and applying their own policies, taking account of local circumstances, and ensuring policies are patient-centred and support equity of access.
5. The submission highlights that where a patient is eligible for assistance with travel costs, claims will be settled within 1 to 2 weeks.
6. In addition, Health Boards can make bookings on behalf of eligible patients and where there's a need for travel, to assist them in identifying and accessing available assistance.
7. The Scottish Government states that it plans to take forward a comprehensive review of the arrangements in place for the provision of financial support for patient travel.

Action

8. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take on this petition.

Clerk to the Committee

Annexe

The following submission is circulated in connection with consideration of the petition at this meeting -

- [PE1886/D: Scottish Government submission dated 21st October 2021](#)