

Mark Leishman Esq
Deputy Private Secretary to HRH the Duke of Rothesay
Clarence House
(by e-mail)

✓ Issued by email - 19/11/07

16 November 2007

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of 5 October. We have been in touch more recently about the various items of action following the First Minister's discussions with His Royal Highness.

Health

We were investigating what initiatives there were relating to alternative therapies in Scotland and whether there were any plans to trial the availability of alternative therapies to see whether it would provide an effective and cost effective outcome for patients.

In terms of current initiatives in alternative therapies, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde operates a homeopathic hospital and NHS Boards are free to use alternative therapies if they choose to - as outlined in a circular issued to all NHS Boards. This document also notes the (then) Scottish Executive's move to make "Complementary Healthcare - A Guide for Patients", published by the Prince of Wales Foundation for Integrated Health, available to NHS Boards. I attach both a background note on NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's homeopathic hospital (Annex A) and the circular on alternative therapies issued to all Health Boards (Annex B).

In addition to this, the Chief Scientist's Office (CSO) has in the past funded several research projects in the area of alternative and complementary therapies. These have included a trial of reflexology for constipation in children, use of essential oils to reduce anxiety in patients awaiting biopsy results, use of music therapy for children with Attention Deficit - Hyperactivity Disorder, and a trial of spiritual healing in asthma.

The CSO supports research projects initiated by the research community in Scotland which are of a sufficiently high standard. This role is well known and advertised throughout the healthcare and academic community. The CSO is not currently funding any research in this area, but would be glad to consider further research proposals into complementary and/or alternative therapies.

I also attach for HRH's information a table (Annex C) outlining the gross ingredient cost for homeopathic medicines to each NHS Board in Scotland, which refers to prescriptions

dispensed by community pharmacists and dispensing doctors. This does not however take into account medicines dispensed by hospitals or hospital-based clinics.

Housing

As you know, the First Minister instructed that some of the ideas on affordable and sustainable housing that he discussed with HRH should be included in the Scottish Government's Green Paper on Housing. The Green Paper was published on 31 October under the title "Firm Foundations: the future of housing in Scotland". You can find a copy at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/201716/0053780.pdf> .

Chapter 2 of Firm Foundations, focusing on our priorities for action on housing supply, contains a section on housing in rural Scotland. It commends the Prince's Rural Housing Initiative for its active pursuit of sustainable rural housing, and it suggests that lessons should be learned from the Initiative's range of good practice. In particular, it highlights the Initiative's promotion of the role of the private sector in creating balanced and sustainable communities.

On sustainable urbanism, Firm Foundations signals the launch of the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative which will seek proposals from local authorities and their partners for new communities. The principles of sustainable urbanism - environmental, social and economic sustainability - underpin the criteria that will be used to select successful proposals. Details of how the Initiative will operate are being developed and will be set out in a document to accompany the consultative draft of the National Planning Framework to be published later this year.

The Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative could be supported by a major international conference in Spring 2008 on sustainable urban expansion showcasing practice with a focus on developments in other countries, such as in Scandinavia, with similar climates to Scotland. We are considering this further.

Agriculture and Environment

I understand that a meeting with Richard Lochhead and Michael Russell is planned for January in Ballater.

You asked for guidance on how funding might be sought from the Scottish Government on developing MSC Certified Fisheries. The First Minister supports sustainability certification schemes such as the Marine Stewardship Council. He was pleased to hear about the fisheries under consideration in the North Highland area and that the vessels concerned are going to be encouraged to join the Seafish Responsible Fishing scheme.

Several other Scottish fisheries are in the process of seeking MSC certification, including the Scottish mackerel and herring fisheries and Scottish langoustine fisheries in the Clyde and the Western Isles. We are also aware of interest from other parts of the Scottish industry. The Scottish Government is happy to support any group wishing to seek certification for a Scottish fishery, both in terms of funding and assistance in meeting the governance criteria for certification.

Officials would be interested to discuss the North Highland Initiative's plans in relation to the specific fisheries in their area in more detail, not only in relation to any assistance we might be able to provide but also because there may be synergies between other work we are

progressing on fishing communities and inshore fisheries management. The principal contact on sustainability certification is Colin Faulkner. Colin leads the team dealing with fisheries conservation. He can be reached on 0131 244 6432 or via Colin.Faulkner@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

I hope these notes are helpful. The First Minister is looking forward to seeing you, along with Mark Johnson and other representatives of the Prince's Trust, next week. Please let us know if there is any more we can do in the meantime.

Yours ever,

Ian

IAN DONALDSON
Private Secretary

PS - we would be happy to send on a hard copy of "Firm Foundations" - let me know if this would be helpful.

2016
16
11

MEETING WITH HRH THE DUKE OF ROTHESAY: ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES

Background

Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital

A new custom built facility within the main Gartnavel General site was opened in 1999, with significant funding provided via charitable donations.

The Homoeopathic Hospital provides a holistic, person-centred approach to a range of chronic conditions, including low back pain, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis (MS). Many of its inpatients have multiple diagnoses with over 70% suffering some form of psychiatric distress and 41% from uncontrolled pain.

In addition to conventional medical practice, treatments provided by the Hospital include homoeopathy and acupuncture, physical therapies including manipulation, neural therapy, 'mind-body' approaches (such as relaxation training and hypnosis), artistic/self-expression work, massage, electro-stimulation therapy, counselling, autogenic therapy, iscador treatment, bower therapy and dietary/nutritional advice.

The hospital provides inpatient services in the form of 15 beds (7 at weekends). Admissions are typically for patients experience a flare-up of their chronic disease condition (e.g. pain management, mental health crises, MS relapses and arthritis). On occasion the hospital will provide terminal care. Of the five major NHS homoeopathic centres in the UK (the others being in Bristol, London, Tunbridge Wells and Liverpool), only Glasgow provides inpatient care.

Outpatient services are provided via 53 weekly clinic sessions located within the Hospital or at network clinics held in hospitals and health centres across Central Scotland. Off-site clinic locations are Baillieston, Coatbridge, Carlisle, Hairmyres (East Kilbride), Strathclyde Hospital (Motherwell), Stirling and St John's Livingston. Weekly clinics are also provided at the Western Infirmary and Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow.

From April 2006, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde was restructured on a functional service basis away from former Trust territorial structures. The Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital is now part of the Acute Services Division, specifically managed from within the Regional Services Directorate (which is also responsible for the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, Cardiothoracic Services, Spinal Injuries and Neurosciences among other services).

The new Directorate has now conducted a review of day-to-day operational management structures and practices within the Homoeopathic Hospital. This is unlikely to have any impact on direct patient care, though it will strive for greater efficiencies.



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department
Public Health Division

Dear Colleague

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

1. The Executive has been asked by the Health Committee to write to NHS Boards formally in order to clarify the position on the provision of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) through the NHS.
2. The Executive recognises, as successive UK Governments have for many years, that CAM may offer relief to some people suffering from a wide variety of conditions. There is no legislative bar to prevent practitioners from offering their services, apart from the restrictions placed by the Medicines Act on prescribing and supplying medicines and giving injections. Members of the public are free to use these services privately if they choose, and a GP or hospital clinician may refer a patient for alternative treatment. The GP or hospital clinician would require to be satisfied of the value of the treatment and the competence of the practitioner, and would remain responsible for the patient's medical care. Some GPs and other health professionals themselves are qualified in various forms of CAM. If an NHS Board sees a need for the provision of a particular type of CAM in its area it is open to that Board to provide that therapy, at the Board's discretion.
3. The majority of complementary disciplines are self-regulated, but osteopathy and chiropractic treatment are both subject to statutory regulation and the UK Health Departments recently conducted a consultation on whether acupuncture and herbal medicine should also be regulated by statute. There was a consensus of opinion that there should be a single regulatory council for both disciplines, and strong support for the proposition that there should be a single UK council rather than separate councils for Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Executive will work with the UK Government and the other devolved administrations to introduce legislation to establish such a council.

24 August 2005

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

For information

Chief Executives, Special Health Boards

Community Health Partnerships

Enquiries to:

Kathleen Glancy
Public Health
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131-244 2544
Fax: 0131-244 2866
Kathleen.Glancy@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

4. Recently the Executive made available to NHS Boards copies of a booklet produced by the Prince of Wales' Foundation for Integrated Health, *Complementary Healthcare – A Guide for Patients*. An electronic version is available at www.fihealth.org.uk

5. Complementary and Alternative Medicine is an area in which there is increasing public interest. Chief Executives are asked to take this into account in the planning of services. The Executive is aware that a number of NHS Boards already provide some forms of CAM.

Yours sincerely

PAM WHITTLE
DIRECTOR

Gross Ingredient Cost for Homeopathic medicines as at 31st March 2007

NHS Board	Year ending 31st March 2007
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	£13,040.36
NHS Borders	£1,796.73
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	£3,667.96
NHS Fife	£8,787.46
NHS Forth Valley	£4,967.99
NHS Grampian	£95,454.50
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	£52,385.85
NHS Highland	£8,759.08
NHS Lanarkshire	£13,677.78
NHS Lothian	£31,058.14
NHS Orkney	£260.00
NHS Shetland	£546.39
NHS Tayside	£21,115.66
NHS Western Isles	£86.83