

PE2081/D: Make chronic kidney disease a key clinical priority

Petitioner written submission, 16 July 2024

Thank you for forwarding the 12 June written submission by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to the above petition, and for giving me the opportunity to respond.

A central basis of our petition is, or has been, the existence of a clinical priorities team within the Scottish Government civil service whose members are aligned to particular clinical conditions. Our contention is that the named conditions chosen for that team to focus on are thus 'clinical priorities', and my petition seeks to add chronic kidney disease (CKD) to that list.

A response to a Freedom of Information request by the Scottish Government, albeit back in 2018, sets out roles and conditions that fall within the remit of the Clinical Priorities team: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-18-01678/>.

Earlier this year my colleagues and I had reason to work with a very helpful official whose email signature identified their role as:

Team Leader, [named condition 1 and named condition 2]
Clinical Priorities
Planning and Quality Division
Scottish Government

I accept that it is possible that this team has been disbanded since the Spring of this year.

Although beyond the scope of my petition, we note that the Scottish Government does not want to publish more health strategies for individual conditions. However, there a number of extant strategies and action plans for conditions such as diabetes and heart disease, that are important, "Once for Scotland" documents that unify government, patients, and clinicians around a programme to reduce the burden of these conditions on individuals and the NHS.

We believe that there is both a demonstrable need for strategic innovative policy on CKD and parliamentary and stakeholder interest in taking such work forward.