

PE1900/Y: Access to prescribed medication for detainees in police custody

Petitioner written submission, 15 January 2025

I read Jenni Minto MSP's response in PE1900/X with a mixture of sadness, anger, and regret.

It is sad that this denial of adequate healthcare has not been noticed in ten years despite each healthcare trust having a Controlled Drug Accountable Officer (CDAO). Strangely CDAO don't seem to be accountable for their failure to follow the policy.

I am angry, I have information to suggest that detainees still are receiving Dihydrocodeine, despite NHS Grampian stating in March 2024 in a new policy statement that no heroin addict would be prescribed Dihydrocodeine.

Yet detainees are still being given unprescribed Dihydrocodeine without their consent. The situation is complicated by the fact that we don't know how the Dihydrocodeine is legally stored or where it is coming from?

The regret comes from the fact that this delay proves that it is a breach of Article 3 & 14 of the Human Rights Act 1998 but no one will investigate. Police Scotland have refused to investigate, saying that despite it happening in their custody suites, and their staff physically handing out the Dihydrocodeine, it is not their responsibility to investigate.

I regret that after so many individuals in custody including addicts, mentally ill and damaged veterans suffer the discrimination of denial of their prescribed medication and adequate healthcare is a putrid sore on the face of democracy and the Scottish Parliament.