

Scottish Government submission of 2 May 2023

PE2016/A: Raise awareness of Thrombosis in Scotland

Thank you for your correspondence on 3 April 2023 to Craig McGill, the Committee liaison officer, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to raise awareness of the risk factors, signs and symptoms of thrombosis in relation to Petition PE2016. I am responding as Deputy Director for the Planning and Quality Division, which has responsibility for public awareness campaigns related to patient safety.

In 2021, which is the most recent year for which we have data available, the National Records of Scotland data show that there were **380** deaths in Scotland from blood clots – deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism or venous thromboembolism. This means that one of these three conditions was listed as an underlying cause of death on the death certificate.

There were a total of **1,925** deaths where blood clots were mentioned on the death certificate:

- 380 deaths where blood clots were noted as an underlying cause.
- 1,545 deaths where blood clots were mentioned as a contributory cause.

The Scottish Government receives many requests to run public awareness campaigns on different issues and conditions. In recent years we have run major health campaigns on sepsis, out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, lung cancer, organ donation, finding the right care and flu vaccination, in addition to a number of campaigns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Owing to the range of important topics for health awareness campaigns that affect the people of Scotland, it is important that we carefully prioritise the issues to which funding and staff resource are allocated, and we continually assess the potential need for these with the close input of clinicians. After careful consideration, and in light of the fact that we have already provided updated material to clinicians and revised the guidance available to the general public on NHS Inform on thrombosis, we do not consider that this is the right time for a major public awareness campaign on the condition.

The Scottish Government health social media account regularly releases routine health awareness messaging through social media, particularly highlighting the information and guidance that is available on NHS Inform. There is now a commitment to include thrombosis awareness in this package of activity, and this work is scheduled to take place later this year.