

Petitioner submission of 29 September 2023

PE2016/D: Raise awareness of Thrombosis in Scotland

I am glad to note that the Scottish Government state their data used in response to "the petition is more specific to Venous Thrombosis and Thromboembolism", even though my petition covers Thrombosis as a whole rather than specifically concentrating on subdivisions of Thrombosis i.e. Venous Thrombosis and Thromboembolism. This is accentuated by the title of my petition namely: to raise awareness of Thrombosis in Scotland.

What the Scottish Government is doing, yet again, is trying to belittle the volume of deaths per annum in Scotland attributed to Thrombosis in general. The Scottish Government is concentrating or trying to divert attention away from the bigger problem, risk factors, signs and symptoms of Thrombosis, and hoping that by concentrating on a subdivision of Thrombosis i.e DVT and PE they can "show" that Thrombosis is not a major problem both for the general public and the medical profession.

By stating "only" 380 deaths per annum rather than the 000s of deaths per annum due to Thrombosis, they hope to minimize the impact of the actual death total. Many of those deaths could be reduced and indeed the morbidity attributed to Thrombosis could reduce the burden on the NHS.

The Scottish Government stated in their response "From the context that we understand the petitioners wanting to raise awareness on, the figures quoted in the response to the petition more accurately reflect the number of deaths recorded in Scotland." I would say all the Scottish Government have done is revisit figures sent to me regarding a question of the then Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, now First Minister, raised some time ago without referring to the wording of my petition namely raising awareness of THROMBOSIS in Scotland, not raising of DVT and or PE in Scotland.

I would also put forward that recent research shows a relationship between Covid/Long Covid and the dangers of blood clots to sufferers.

SIGN has worked on a guideline where they highlight the relationship between Covid and Blood Clots but as per the existing SIGN guidelines 122 and 129, there has been no action taken to raise awareness to the general public of risk factors plus signs and symptoms to be aware of.

Without heightened awareness of Thrombosis risk factors and signs and symptoms, the incidences of Thrombosis mortality and morbidity will increase and the only way I see the Scottish Government doing anything is to make use of statistics in the hopes they can "confuse" the general public.

I look at a possible example being that if a question was asked of deaths due to addictive substances the Scottish Government would choose to either quote deaths due to narcotics, alcohol or tobacco all of which are addictive rather than quote total deaths. This way the actual figures quoted are recorded as lower than the "true" total.

At the end of all responses from the Scottish Government, it always states that it is "looking at what further awareness messaging can be taken forward on Thrombosis". I have been corresponding with the Scottish Government since 2003 and there has been no awareness messaging taken forward since then, hence my petition.