

## **PE1924/T - Petitioner Statement for Health, Social Care and Sport Committee**

**25.02.23**

Thank you for taking the time to review my petition on the 21st. I am very grateful that you voted to keep the petition open to be reviewed at a later date.

I would like to briefly stress that although the **Best Start North Review** is important for the remote and rural areas, this is a solely maternity and neonatal focused review and the lack of Gynaecology care in Caithness General affects many more women than those carrying babies.

As I stressed in my last letter, I'm delighted that NHS Highland are going to undertake an EQIA on the gynaecology service. However, I am concerned that this will be based on the amount of cover we currently have as a temporary measure. A long term review, cannot under any circumstance, be done on the basis of temporary situations.

Kirsteen, Claire and I (**North Highland Women's Wellbeing Hub**) have been informed that we will be part of every step of this review, however, we are yet to hear back from NHS Highland about a timescale or process of this happening.

We are also still waiting on a reply to the Scottish Human Rights letter dated the 31.10.2022 and NHS Highland have said this was down to an "administration error". Call me cynical but Kirsteen and I have been on the BBC, STV, MFR and all over the local papers in the Highland, flagging up the lack of response for months. I just don't see how this can be down to an admin error.

I look forward to hearing from the committee at the next meeting and I respectfully ask that the Best Start North Review is not the only part of the puzzle considered when deciding next steps.

Warmest

*R. Wymer*

**Rebecca Wymer**

**Vice Chair - NHWWH**