



T: 0131-244 2379
E: cmo@gov.scot

Kathleen McCall
Chair
Invest in M.E. Research
PO Box 561
Eastleigh
Hampshire SO50 0GQ

By email: info@investinme.org

8 February 2019

Dear Ms McCall,

Thank you for your email of 13 December 2018 about Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.). I apologise for the delay in providing a full response.

M.E. is a debilitating and complex condition and, as you have outlined, the impact to people's quality of life can be far reaching and potentially very isolating. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to speak publically about my own professional experience of supporting people with M.E. when I attended a meeting of the Public Petitions Committee (PPC) on 24 January. I assured the PPC that we want to make real progress in Scotland to improve the care and support available for this condition.

On the research front, we will work with others to consider what can be done to assist our academic communities to increase the level of research. Within the Scottish Government, the Chief Scientist Office has responsibility for supporting health and social care research. Researchers can apply directly to the Chief Scientist Office for research funding. The CSO's Translational Clinical Studies Committee and the Health Improvement, Protection and Services Research Committees each meet twice per year to consider funding applications. Details of the application process are published on the CSO website.

<http://www.cso.scot.nhs.uk/funding-2/>

We would welcome applications looking at the underlying causes, diagnosis and treatment of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis. In common with all other applications, these would go through CSO's standard independent peer review process. CSO also has an active and productive programme of engagement with third sector organisations, including co-funding of research projects and fellowships. Officials from CSO would be happy to discuss possible areas of mutual interest with Invest in ME Research. Please contact Dr Alan McNair in the first instance (alan.mcnair@gov.scot).

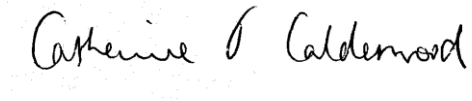
While appropriate bodies, such as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, review up to date evidence, I can confirm we will also be setting up a short life working group



to explore the provision of services and different practices across the country. Further detail on this will be shared with the PPC once we have worked up a proposal. We are currently considering the process to produce this in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and people with lived experience.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Calderwood
Chief Medical Officer