To: Lewis Macdonald MSP, Convener of Health and sport Committee, Scottish Parliament EH99 1SP Lewis.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot

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From [insert your name and full address here *– if you are not a resident of Scotland please make that clear - submissions from interested professionals are also warmly encouraged*]

Dear Mr Macdonald

**Thyroid diagnosis and treatment.**

I am writing to you,as someone affected by a thyroid disorder, to tell you my story.   I understand that petition PE1463 is one of the longest running in the history of the Scottish Parliament and has now been referred to your committee with the proposal that you hold an inquiry. On 7th February at the petitions committee meeting the Convener, Johann Lamont, said ***“Our preferred position is that the Health and Sport Committee conduct an inquiry…”***

This whole issue is largely one of health inequality for women as they make up the vast majority of sufferers. However, it should be noted that men and children can also be profoundly affected. Thyroid disease affects health and well-being, both physical and mental, and can reduce the ability to contribute to society and the economy. The treatment in Scotland for many patients, particularly those with an underactive thyroid, is less than ideal and must be addressed as a matter of priority.

At least 10% of those with an under active thyroid are known to ‘not do well’ on the standard treatment regime, yet they are very seldom offered any alternative treatment, although alternatives exist and have been seen to be effective**.  What is the medical solution for them?**

The blood tests for hypothyroidism do not give a full picture of thyroid hormone function, hence many sufferers are deemed ‘borderline’, are undertreated or may remain undiagnosed**- Is this acceptable in 21st century Scotland?**

**HERE IS MY STORY**

**[insert your story here]**

I have copied this letter to the petitions committee Convener, Elaine Smith MSP and the MSP’s who represent me.

I confirm that I agree to my name being made public and am happy to be called to give evidence to the committee.

Thank you for your interest in this matter of life and death for many of our citizens and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards