



Equal Opportunities Committee

Email: equal.opportunities@scottish.parliament.uk

NHS XX

By email

29 February 2016

Dear XX,

Female Genital Mutilation

The Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee has an active interest in tackling Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and is keen to engage with the Scottish Government, public sector and voluntary organisations on work being done to eradicate FGM on a national level and within communities. The Committee is also aware of recent correspondence that you will have received from the Chief Medical Officer/Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland.¹

During recent engagement with stakeholders, the Committee heard of serious difficulties experienced by survivors of FGM when they were using maternity services. This has highlighted a gap between the position we have heard that in theory is adopted by services and the practice experienced by survivors. The problems identified we consider could have been avoided if staff had been suitably trained. We would therefore like to ask what training you currently provide to midwives, nurses and doctors in relation to both survivors of FGM and those at risk of FGM.

We would be very grateful if you could respond to the Convener of the Equal Opportunities Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact the Committee via the details above if you have any questions.

¹ [http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO\(2016\)05.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2016)05.pdf)
<http://www.equalitiesinhealth.org/FGM-CMO.pdf>
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women/FGM/Letter>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M McCulloch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first "M" being large and stylized, followed by "McCulloch" in a more continuous script.

Margaret McCulloch MSP, Convener, Equal Opportunities Committee