

# Edward Mountain MSP submission of 3 May 2022

## PE1890/E – Find solutions to recruitment and training challenges for rural healthcare in Scotland

I am very sorry that I am unable to be present at the Petition Committee today. Since my election to the Scottish Parliament in 2016, I have been in constant contact with Caithness Health Action Team (CHAT) regarding concerns about health care provision in the Far North.

Recruitment and retention challenges have impacted NHS Highland's ability to deliver fully the health care services that local communities in the region need. This is a historic issue and continues to effect maternity care, mental health, radiology and orthopaedics, to name just a few departments. It is clear that our region needs more access to training and I continue to call for the Scottish Government to establish a Highland Medical School.

The Committee should also be aware that a Cross Party of Highland parliamentarians (Conservative, Labour, and Liberal Democrat) continue to work jointly with NHS Highland to resolve the obstacles, such as housing and rural weightings in salary packages, to the recruitment of rural health practitioners.

Overall, I support the principles of petition PE1890 in the name of Maria Aitken on behalf of CHAT and would respectfully ask that the Committee continues to consider this petition, which is supported across the region