

S3W-40127 - Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con) (Date Lodged Wednesday, March 02, 2011): (on my behalf)

To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will recommend the provision of complementary and alternative medicine through the Complementary and Natural Health Council for the treatment of chronic pain.

Answered by Nicola Sturgeon (Wednesday, March 16, 2011): The Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council (CNHC) is a non-statutory project, funded and assessed by the Department of Health in London. There is no duly appointed Scottish representative on the CNHC, and no endorsement or funding has been sought from this government.

The government recognises that complementary or alternative medicine offer relief to some people suffering from a wide variety of conditions. It is open to NHS boards to provide these therapies, based on their assessment of the needs of their local population and in line with national guidance on treatment. Guidance on complementary and alternative medicine was issued to NHS boards in August 2005 in HDL (2005) 37, which is available at:

http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/HDL2005_37.pdf