



CASTLE CRAIG
HOSPITAL

Castle Craig's Statement on Recent Scottish Suicide Rates

Monday 11th June, 2012.

If the Scottish Government is serious about tackling Scotland's shocking suicide rates then it needs to start offering rehabilitation for alcohol and drug addicts.

Peter McCann, Castle Craig's Chairman said today, "Many drug and alcohol addicts have diagnosed or undiagnosed mental health disorders. Prescribing more drugs to treat these problems, while not treating the underlying addiction is creating havoc with a highly vulnerable group of people."

The authors of a report into Scottish suicide rates published in the journal of Epidemiology and Community Health state, "it is difficult to know if the problem lies with the people or the NHS."

However the Chairman of Castle Craig is clearer on this point, "From our point of view the problem lays clearly at the door of Scotland's inadequate addiction and mental health services and the dogma of 'community treatment for all'."

Located in the Scottish borders, Castle Craig Hospital is one of Europe's leading addiction and mental health treatment clinics with over 120 beds. However, annual referrals of Scottish patients have fallen by over 75% in the last 10 years. A spokesman for the hospital said, "we deal daily with enquiries from individuals and family members who are desperate to access our services, many are at the end of the road and contemplating suicide, however we have no option but to refer them back to their community addiction teams or GPs, who invariably tell them that residential rehab is 'not an option'."