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Mrs Auður Guðjónsdóttir
Chairman
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Nesbali 56
170 Seltjarnarnes
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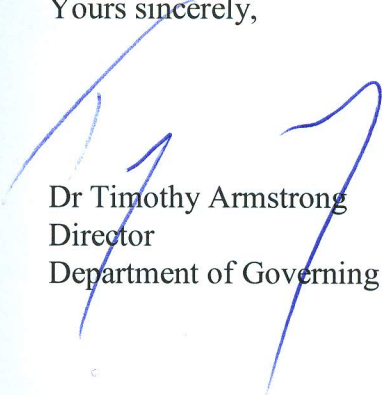
Dear Mrs Guðjónsdóttir,

On behalf of the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 28 November 2019, in which you share your family's personal story and draw attention to the need for an international campaign to increase understanding of the nervous system in medical science in order to find a cure for spinal cord injury.

I congratulate you for your commitment over 30 years to this issue, which we recognize as an important public health concern. WHO has over the years addressed this topic, in part through launching the report *International perspectives on spinal cord injury*, released with the International Spinal Cord Society in 2013. In addition, our work on preventing illnesses and injuries in the first place, as well as our work on emergency trauma care and rehabilitation also contribute to progress in this field.

I share your view that in addition to prevention and rehabilitation, more effort is needed to find a cure for spinal cord injury and a discussion by the World Health Assembly could be helpful in generating collective action to address this issue. However, a proposal for an item to be included on the agenda of the Health Assembly must come from Member States, often through the Executive Board.

Yours sincerely,


Dr Timothy Armstrong
Director
Department of Governing Bodies