PE1517/II

Scottish Government letter of 27 October 2016

Thank you for your letter of 30 September, addressed to Carole Finnigan, concerning Petition PE1517 (Polypropylene Mesh Medical Devices). I am replying given my role as Chair of the Expert Group.

You will recall that the Independent Review of Transvaginal Mesh Implants published its interim report in October of last year. All recommendations contained in that report have subsequently been considered by the Expert Group, with particular focus thus far on the following actions:

- a pathway of care for women seeking treatment for stress urinary incontinence
- a governance framework for multi-disciplinary teams treating women with these conditions;
- a revised patient information and consent leaflet for stress urinary incontinence;
- 'request for treatment' as an addition to the consenting process; and
- a pathway of care for women experiencing serious complications.

A comprehensive patient information and consent form has been drafted, and is being piloted in England. Feedback from patients and clinicians will be carefully considered and will be used to further refine the document in the New Year.

I should explain that, at this point in time, the Expert Group is awaiting the Independent Review's final report. Until the report has been published, the Expert Group does not consider it appropriate to take forward any further recommendations where publication of important research findings is still awaited.

With the above in mind, I can confirm that the Independent Review aims to publish its final report by the end of this year, and the Expert Group will reconvene shortly thereafter to consider its recommendations.

I hope this helps to clarify the position.

Yours sincerely

Terry O'Kelly
Chair, Transvaginal Mesh Implants Expert Group