

PE1823/G

Scottish Government submission of 11 December 2020

Thank you for your letter of 9 October asking for the Scottish Government to review and expand the existing Newborn Screening Programme, following consideration of the public petition [PE1823: Full body scans to all neonates in Scotland](#), calling on the Scottish Government to offer full body scans to all neonates in Scotland.

As I indicated in my letter of 4 September 2020, the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC), an independent advisory group, advises Ministers and the NHS in the four UK countries about all aspects of screening, including the potential for any new screening programmes. Further details are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-national-screening-committee-uk-nsc> . It is the primary objective of the Scottish Screening Committee to consider the advice and recommendations of the UK NSC. Currently there are no recommendations to implement population screening for AVM, the condition referred to in the petition.

However, the UK NSC has an annual call for suggesting new screening programmes. The annual call has closed now for this year but provides an opportunity in future years to put forward evidence. Further information can be found at: <https://phescreening.blog.gov.uk/2020/09/15/annualcall2020/>.