Scottish Government submission of 21 March 2019

Thank you for your email of 25th February 2019 seeking the Scottish Government’s views on the comments made by the petitioner regarding ex gratia payments for those affected by the Pluerix vaccine.

As the petitioner is aware the safety of vaccines and policy on compensation for vaccine damages are issues which are reserved to the UK parliament. Disability or damage caused by vaccination is covered by the Vaccine Damages Payments Scheme (VDPS). VDPS remains the correct route for individuals to go through if they believe they have been severely disabled as a result of vaccination. Policy for the scheme rests with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and I believe DHSC have provided a separate response to the petition.

We appreciate that some individuals affected by the pluserix vaccine may not meet the threshold for payments under the VDPS and have therefore not received any payment. The Scottish Government fully sympathises with those individuals and their families however, does not have any plans to offer ex gratia payments.