The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has statutory responsibility for the safety of medicines and vaccines in the UK. The MHRA takes advice from the Government's independent expert advisory body, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM), formerly the Committee on Safety of Medicines, when evaluating the risks and benefits of medicines and vaccines.

The focus of the petition is around compensation and the policy of using Pluserix - both issues are outside of the MHRA’s remit. The MHRA’s predecessor, the Medicines Control Agency, and the Committee on Safety of Medicines undertook an assessment of the evidence of risk of aseptic meningitis with Pluserix (and other Urabe mumps vaccines) in 1992 and 2002, but such assessments were unrelated to compensation matters. The Department of Health stopped supplying Pluserix and Immravax MMR vaccines in September 1992, due to the risk of aseptic meningitis.