

PE1517/V

Mr Andrew Howlett
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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Date: 16 October 2014
Your Ref:
Our Ref: EM/MS/MM

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Dear Mr Howlett

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY PUBLIC PETITION PE1517 ON POLYPROPLYENE MESH MEDICAL DEVICES

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the specific points regarding this public petition.

NHS Highland has already responded to the deputy CMO expressing the Board's full agreement with views given by NHS Dumfries & Galloway specifically in response to the points raised in your letter, NHS Highland's comments are as follows:

- 1 NHS Highland suspended use of polypropylene transvaginal mesh (TVM) procedures in June 2014 following the letter from the CMO. We agree that current evidence does not support their use.
- 2 NHS Highland agrees that robust processes need to be in place to assess the benefits of any new procedure or intervention. Current procedures could be improved. Any public enquiry could usefully broaden its scope to include the general issue of the managed introduction of new procedures.
- 3 NHS Highland has processes in place for the reporting of all adverse incidents by health professionals & encourages such reporting.
- 4 In line with Dumfries & Galloway's response, NHS Highland recognises the resources needed to set up a Scottish TVM register, but would support this approach.
- 5 NHS Highland fully supports the introduction of fully Informed Consent by patients for all procedures in the future.
- 6 NHS Highland agrees that communication with the MHRA over reclassification of TVM devices is appropriate.

I hope these comments are helpful and sincerely apologise for the delay in getting them to you.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Mead
Chief Executive