

PE1517/NN

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport of 26 June 2017

Thank you for your letter of 2 June concerning the Independent Review of Transvaginal Mesh.

I can confirm that officials have continued to take forward arrangements for the review that will be undertaken by Professor Britton. I should make clear that this review will consider the process of the Independent Review and, as I said during my recent appearance at the Committee, Professor Britton will make recommendations around the conduct of similar reviews in the future. Professor Britton does not, however, intend to re-examine the evidence considered by the Independent Review, and her conclusions will therefore have no bearing on the moratorium that was requested in 2014 and continues to this day. As I explained during my appearance at the Committee, the moratorium will remain in place until the Chief Medical Officer is assured that the Independent Review's recommendations have been fully implemented.

With respect to timeframe, I can confirm that Professor Britton has given an initial indication that, in order to produce work that is credible and valuable, a final report in the summer of 2018 is likely. This, however, is a matter for Professor Britton and, in the interests of ensuring the independence of her work, the Scottish Government will not impose pressure in respect of this.

I note that Committee members continue to be concerned about the possibility of out of date literature being available in GP practices and other Health Board premises. I have therefore asked the Chief Medical Officer to write to all Health Boards with a request that they review the information available in their premises, and that they provide confirmation that they have done so.

As you mention in your letter, I recall from my appearance at the Committee that you wish to invite further members of the Independent Review to give evidence at a future Committee meeting. I would be grateful if you would contact any member that you wish to invite through the Independent Review's secretariat.

I hope that this is helpful.