

PE1517/QQQ

Debbie McGeachy submission of 26 September 2017

Mesh has destroyed me. I have no life anymore. I exist in the shell of a once healthy, very fit and active body. I had a job in the Scottish Ambulance Service that I loved and it is gone. A distant memory. I loved helping people. I've brought new life into the world in my job. I've also held the hands of people as they drew their last breath on this earth. Those people, to me now, are the lucky ones. 7 years ago I had Mesh Surgery for SUI which was caused by lifting heavy patients and long periods of time spent without going to the loo.

My "gold standard" treatment eroded through my vaginal wall. Numerous painful Botox treatments, mesh removal and Autologous surgery followed. Today I have to self-catheterise to empty my bladder. Not only that but I am incontinent every time my bladder is full and I stand up. Chronic pain, fatigue, nausea, depression and anxiety are just the tip of the iceberg for me. A cocktail of medication to try and combat these symptoms leaves me feeling and looking like a "zombie". I'm just not "me" anymore. I've thought about ending my life so many times in the past year or so. I've had it planned out and even took an overdose several months ago. I just can't cope.

I'm moving to the countryside with my husband to see if it will help my physical and mental health. I'm a recluse. I don't go out. I don't talk to anyone. I don't feel I have anything to say anymore. My family are heartbroken, bitter and scared. I'm not a proper mum, wife, daughter or friend. I stopped being those things years ago. I can't walk far. I use sticks or a wheelchair. I ran 10k's before mesh.

So, how can any sane person say that this barbaric procedure is worth the risk? "The benefits outweigh the risks" I've lost count how many times I've heard supposedly clever educated people say those words. Wake up please to the actual physical suffering that is going on in front of your eyes due to mesh. It's real. It's not a lie. Come visit me and see how I live now.

Alex Neil gave me hope in 2014. This final report is a disgrace. How could there ever be independence in the report when there was clearly a conflict of interests with some of its members? When it got to the stage where 4 members resigned, this should've rang alarm bells with the powers that be. It should've been stopped. It should've been scrapped completely. Why did this not happen? Money? Pharmaceutical Company influence? We deserve the truth so please tell us.

How many more lives are you all prepared to destroy? You haven't listened to me up until now but please hear my voice. I won't go away. I won't give in. I can't. Not until Mesh is banned.