

PE1517/XX

Jackie Harvey submission of 31 August 2017

I am writing on behalf of the women on Meshed Up NI which is a support group of approximately 250 Northern Irish women who have had their lives permanently damaged by pelvic mesh. The Scottish Mesh Survivors have led the way in the United Kingdom in trying to bring about a permanent end to the use of this barbaric procedure and these women's dedicated campaigning along with cross party support has successfully had this procedure suspended since 2014 giving the women of Scotland protection from this harm.

The many horrific stories I have heard from the Scottish ladies are mirrored by all the women on my group in Northern Ireland and I know by many women in England and Wales. Women have lost jobs, husbands/partners, sex lives, they are in wheelchairs, crutches and have even lost internal organs all down to the devastating effects of this supposedly simple procedure.

This is not just a Scottish issue, it is a global issue but while we cannot stop the harm being caused globally we can try to ensure the continuing protection for women in one small part of the world in Scotland and meantime work towards getting this suspension introduced in Northern Ireland, England and Wales.

I call on the Scottish Parliament to ensure that the suspension in the use of mesh continues as it is becoming more and more obvious as time passes that more women are waking up to the realisation that the various health issues they are suffering from are linked to these procedures and are not all in their head. Indeed I had no idea that my TVT mesh was causing all my pain for 10 years.

More women are now reporting their issues and we are hoping to see a day when the MHRA will eventually admit that the benefits most definitely do not outweigh the risks. When you read the horror stories on the various groups you would never agree with the MHRA statement

I hope that Scottish health secretary Shona Robison takes note of this and other submissions when giving consideration to the further suspension of mesh as this would be a clear signal that she is actually listening to the women of this country who are having to live half lives due to this procedure. The immense disappointment and anger felt following the recent 'whitewash' of a review that was carried out has already been a bitter pill to swallow so hopefully she will now be able to redeem herself.