

PE1517/YY

Marion Garland submission of 31 August 2017

My name is Marion Garland and for nearly 6 years I have suffered the terrible effects of a TVT-O pelvic mesh implant.

In the first few years of struggling to get help I was met with denial and a complete disregard by medical professionals to what was happening inside my body. Pain, the inability to walk properly, to sit, to be intimate, and to work at my previous job position all these and more were apparent to all but the caring profession involved with mesh.

As time went on I searched for help online and linked up with others who like me had been told they were the only ones.

I travelled to the south of England to get a translabial scan which can see pelvic mesh implants something the consultants denied. It was only then when I found my own proof that I got some better and kinder treatment.

As more women like me joined the Hear our Voice campaign and supported the public petition at our Parliament I continued to forge links across the world with other mesh damaged women. The information they have gathered and pieced together has been a horrific exposé of corrupt business practices. Of Nonexistent regulatory controls or legal loopholes that are exploited both in America and in Europe. All done in the pursuit of profit with no thoughts on patient care even when reasonable medical voices highlighted the dangers they were ignored by salesmen, implanters and regulators.

Throughout the stages of our petition I had hopes that our Parliament would do the right thing. That those in charge would see the same corruption that affects America had also insidiously worked its way into our health service. That surgeon salesmen were allowed to train others who took the easier path to wield a scalpel and as the big pharmaceutical companies paid for this training there was a false assumption that it was safe. These same doctors would go on to deny patients who were damaged for selfish reasons and did not report problems.

At all times the MHRA has supported mesh implants and has obstructed true evaluation. It has refused to answer important questions. It has refused to have mesh tested for health and safety. It has obstructed patients groups. It has allowed big companies to direct medical implant policy knowing full well it will be those companies products the NHS will buy. It has been negligent in not setting up an implant register and they have had years to do this after previous implant scandals.

Last but not least they have been found out in trying to cover up mesh entries into the Yellow Card Self Reporting Scheme. Yet this group of people have a controlling interest and have called the shots in a supposed independent enquiry.

This is not the actions of a group meant to put patients first and I would say that their involvement and disgraceful behaviour should warrant our members in the Scottish Parliament making a formal public complaint to Westminster.

The minimal medical acceptance of multi disciplinary teams is of no comfort because many mesh damaged patients now find themselves in wards next to patients who have had mesh implants for hysterectomies for bowel problems etc. It seems that unless a woman demands that her surgeon signs a document saying no mesh then it is still being implanted without true understanding by the women whose lives may be damaged and forever lived in pain. Add to this the frightening number of hernia patients coming forward again without true informed consent and this is becoming criminal and a massive long term problem for our NHS. The big companies will be happy with a never ending supply of sick people.

I have on the next page listed why I think this report is flawed and that mesh must be banned because until surgeons are held to the same rules as ordinary people they will continue to harm. They should no longer deny the problems with mesh but they do and worse they still delay and act dumb when women come for help.

It is too late for me. There is not one competent surgeon in Scotland who can remove my mesh completely and even if they could they cannot repair the damage done. My previous life ended in 2011 this new one is at times an existence and a battle to stay able but as time goes on the mesh causes more erosions, infections and disability. Sadly this was completely avoidable.

Mesh Report Failings.

The second chair of the enquiry is not neutral and has allowed Sims trials in her area during the moratorium where patients really were guinea pigs.

The report was hastily published as soon as patient representatives and one consultant resigned in protest and days BEFORE the EU enforced a high risk status to ALL mesh implants. All mesh implants are not enforced as high risk in the UK but EU law and regulations should still apply and patients SHOULD be informed properly. It is not happening. Surgeons simply say all operations carry a risk.

The advance in evidence and information about mesh from independent sources has been prolific in the last few months all showing massive problems. NOT included in report. The most disturbing being photographic evidence of mesh degradation within

the human body on all meshes tested. It proved mesh is not inert and the scientists warn of long term problems within a hot human body.

The report does not include information from other medical disciplines like geneticists saying one in three may have a faulty auto immune gene which does not switch off. Considering mesh relies on the immune system switching off after six weeks this is a red flag for future health problems.

The report does not list the chemical properties of mesh in bodily fluids being changed and the leaching effects of this and oxidation when exposed to air and what it does to the patient long term.

The report does not include costings for lifelong care of mesh damaged patients or provide a true figure of those already harmed. It is flawed.

It is the duty of any government to protect its citizens. I ask that you the Scottish Parliament review this so called final report because not only is it incomplete it will be found deficient as other information comes to light. I would also ask that you ban children from getting mesh implants. Parents are now coming forward to help groups about this. Even the big companies say not for children. Surgeons need to be held accountable for their actions.

Thank you for allowing me a voice.