

PE1865/XXXX: Suspend all surgical mesh and fixation devices

Petitioners written submission, 22 April 2025

To the Petitions Committee,

We are aware of the intention to close this petition, and we write to express our deep concern and disappointment. We understand you may feel there is no further route for this petition, but we strongly disagree. In our view, the issues raised remain unaddressed, and meaningful action from the Scottish Government has yet to materialise.

There are still no clear patient pathways for hernia mesh-injured individuals. No formal guidelines have been established regarding the use of mesh, and there is no evidence to show that the BRAN (Benefits, Risks, Alternatives, and doing Nothing) framework is being actively implemented across NHS Scotland by surgeons. We continue to hear from patients who are neither being offered non-mesh alternatives nor receiving fully informed consent—despite commitments made in Parliament by former Women's Health Minister, Maree Todd, and Mr. Terry O'Kelly.

The statement that "this is new mesh, not like the old one" echoes troublingly familiar rhetoric from the transvaginal mesh scandal. We fear history is repeating itself. If this petition is closed, we are left with no option but to consider submitting another—asking for the very same things. This would be both demoralising and difficult, especially considering it took two years just to have this petition brought before the Committee.

Regarding the response from current Women's Health Minister, Jenni Minto, about the meeting with the Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG), we were deeply shocked by the use of incomplete and outdated data to inform their recommendations. The data cited did not span more than one year and is already outdated. More accurate, current evidence is available. The refusal to consider a new report, even after the flaws in the original data have been proven, is extremely concerning. It suggests the Government continues to turn a blind eye—allowing further harm to constituents and failing to uphold its duty of care.

We have consistently called for collaboration and inclusion, asking to be involved as patient representatives and to engage with the NHS to voice our concerns. Yet, our efforts have been met with silence. We feel our experiences and pleas are falling on deaf ears. No progress has been made. Our suffering continues. The very report the Government commissioned clearly recommends offering natural tissue repair—but this still isn't happening in practice.

Personally, I have contributed to the creation of [the APICCTHS model](#)—designed to address what happens when the NHS gets it wrong. But why are we not focusing on getting it right from the start?

We are simply asking to work together to build a system that listens to patients, values their lived experience, and ensures access to safe, transparent, and

appropriate care. We urge you not to close this petition. If it is closed, what hope do we have of being heard at all?

Please reconsider. We believe there is still important work to be done, and we ask for your support in making that happen.