

PE2086/H: Recognise the vaccine injured and offer appropriate treatment

Petitioner written submission, 2 April 2025

I want to thank the Committee for the time they have given this petition and for the questions they have asked the Scottish Government.

This paper is designed to highlight the difference in the way those with long covid have been treated compared to the vaccine injured. To be clear this is not an attack on anyone with long covid.

The Scottish Government's approach to Long Covid and vaccine injuries shows a clear divide. Long Covid got quick action: by 2021, they'd noted 187,000 affected and launched a strategy. They've committed £3 million—£10 million for NHS services in 2023, £0.5 million for research—plus clinics and a 2023 committee review with 12 meetings. It's a priority with real support. Vaccine injuries, though, get far less. There's no official figure—Public Health Scotland cites 641 cases, 36 deaths—but no focus follows. There are no dedicated funds, just a UK £120,000 payment for the worst cases. No clinics or specific plans—just a March 2024 response deferring to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Long Covid's backed with resources; vaccine injuries feel ignored. Both are serious, but the gap in response is hard to miss.

In providing this summary I hope to demonstrate how those with vaccine injuries have been treated. Many of the responses we have received tell us that whether a person is vaccine injured or not they will still receive the appropriate care needed. This is a completely inappropriate way to deal with any patient. It's gaslighting but more importantly, it shows a willingness to ignore safety signals. Why would any medical practitioner choose to ignore what a patient is telling them? Do they not want to acknowledge possible injuries? The Scottish Government and the Scottish NHS actively encouraged everyone to get vaccinated. They cannot now walk away from the duty of care they have for those injured.

Finally, I want to challenge the committee by asking what they can practically do to help us achieve the aims of our petition.

I engaged with this process in good faith and believe we have presented a well evidenced petition (which was noted by members).

Sadly, I note that the responses from the Government now seem to have dried up. I note they have failed to respond to our last evidence paper. Which is deeply disappointing given the time and energy that has been put into producing our evidence papers.

It is my understanding that part of the remit of this Committee is to encourage deliberative democracy. I also believe the Committee has the ability to set up people's forums. Given that the Committee mentioned the amount of health related

petitions perhaps it's time one was set up to allow the people to have a say on the current state of all of our health related services.

I believe it's time for the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to come to the Committee and answer our questions directly and lay out how they plan to help us.

I feel the time has come for this petition to receive some answers and to find solutions. Once again, I thank the Committee for their time and hope that we can now move on to finding the solutions needed to help those who have been injured.