

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Tuesday, 3 February 2026
5th Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

Patient Safety Commissioner - Note by the Clerk

Background

1. The Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill was introduced in response to the recommendation of the UK Government-commissioned [Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review \(IMMDS Review\)](#) ('the Cumberlege review'). This review examined patient harms from the hormonal pregnancy test Primodos, Sodium Valproate in pregnancy and transvaginal surgical mesh.
2. Each of these products was associated with significant patient harms and one of the main findings of the review was that patients were not listened to. The review therefore recommended the creation of a Patient Safety Commissioner (PSC) to listen to and provide a voice for patients, with a view to driving systemic improvements in care.
3. Subsequently, the [Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Act 2023](#) ('the Act') received Royal Assent on 7 November 2023.
4. The Act established the office of the Commissioner and provides for its purposes in relation to:
 - the identification of patient safety issues in the provision of healthcare in Scotland
 - amplifying the voices of patients in relation to these safety issues and
 - making recommendations to address the safety issues identified.
5. The Commissioner's remit will cover all healthcare providers operating in Scotland, including NHS, NHS-contracted and independent healthcare providers. Unlike England, the remit will also extend beyond medicines and medical devices to all patient safety issues.
6. The Scottish Parliament nominated Karen Titchener as Scotland's first Patient Safety Commissioner in May 2025, and her appointment began in September 2025 for a fixed term of 8 years.

Today's meeting

7. At today's meeting, the Committee will take evidence from the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland, Karen Titchener.

Clerks to the Committee

January 2026