



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

To all my friends at the Scottish Mesh Survivors campaign,

This will be my last Christmas message to you before I stand down from Parliament at the May election.

Can I begin by saying that I am very proud of the work we have done together over the last decade. From the outset this was a David and Goliath battle. We were up against many well-resourced and organised opponents – big powerful businesses, the Scottish Government, the Chief Medical officer, The UK Government, The MHRA, the medical establishment and a disinterested media (with one marvellous exception, our friend Marion). However, we took them on with honesty, dignity, dogged determination and one key ingredient – right on our side.

I am hugely proud of the work we have done on mesh, in particular the suspension. It is an undeniable fact that every bit of progress we have made has had to be fought for and without the support I have received from you, from Marion, from Dr Agur, Dr Veronikis and others then we would not have made so much progress.

From the sham Scottish mesh review, Alison Britton's review of reviews, the petition and suspension, all of dozens and dozens of media stories, The Cumberlege report, the treatment of some of you in the US, to the mesh fund and so much more these were achieved because we worked together.

The message from this campaign is when you have right on your side and you are prepared to work collectively you achieve so much more than if you work alone.

Scotland had the opportunity to lead the world in care for mesh injured women by grasping Dr Veronikis' s extremely generous offer to come here to carry out full mesh removals. Sadly, that opportunity has been lost because of a series of failures by Scottish Government Ministers and their advisers who never wanted him here in the first place.

In 2021 the Scottish Government must provide the funding to allow those who want to travel to the US for this life changing treatment, to do so. In my remaining few months in parliament I will be pushing for this to happen.

Finally, I want to say thanks to every one of you. Your support has been consistent and fantastic. Getting involved in justice campaigns like this, working on behalf of people just like me, my family and my community is what brought me into politics. My

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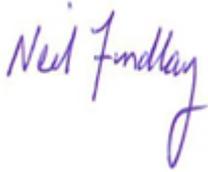
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experience of working with the Scottish mesh survivors has humbling and personally rewarding – keep the faith, keep campaigning, we are right, and they are wrong.

Have a lovely Christmas and let us win justice in the new year.

Stay safe – God bless you all.



Neil Findlay
MSP for the Lothians (Labour)