

Dear Scottish Mesh Survivors

Time is now fast running out for us to see the mesh fund and other vital issues resolved so we can all access a surgeon we trust and choose, including overseas.

After eight years of fighting just to get the government to do the right thing, betrayal after betrayal has left us still struggling to get treatment from surgeons we can trust and who have a proven history of proven skills and safe treatment.

The huge amount of money the government has spent engaging with the Health and Social Care Alliance, which they also fund to the tune of around £5million a year, could have paid for many women to have treatment instead of covering all the ground we have already covered repeatedly over the years.

The fact they continue to do this while claiming this is 'patient engagement' and 'patient choice' while MSPs from every single party have repeatedly backed every aspect of our campaign has served to delay and obfuscate the government's obligation and requirement to do the right thing.

We've drawn up a Mesh Charter which we believe covers everything needed to ensure help for all women in Scotland injured by mesh implants used to treat bladder issues and pelvic organ prolapse, and leave behind a legacy which will protect women in future from suffering as we all have.

With the election on the horizon, it is our last chance to seek assurances from every MSP that they will support our charter and we ask each of you to write to your MSP and secure their assurance that they will. See below the letter we ask you send to each of your MSPs, and please ask your family and friends to send them too, thank you.

Elaine Holmes and Olive McIlroy, Scottish Mesh Survivors

Dear

As my MSP, I am contacting you as one of the hundreds of women in Scotland who have suffered life changing injuries as a result of mesh implants used to treat bladder issues and pelvic organ prolapse. A number of these implants have been repeatedly been found to be defective in various courts of law, and mesh manufacturers have paid £billions to injured women in the US. Here in Scotland the picture is very different.

Women here have been left struggling to just access safe treatment to remove these plastic devices, designed to save the NHS around £200 per operation, the human cost in devastated lives is incalculable.

Scotland initially led the way by becoming the first country in the world to introduce a mesh suspension in 2014. But since then, mesh injured women have repeatedly been let down.

After eight years of fighting, we still have not had our voices heard, with more time and money spent on reviews and reviews of those reviews rather than taking the action desperately needed to even secure the medical help we needed from surgeons we can trust to reclaim what little has been left of our shattered lives and health.

We ask you to pledge support to our Hear Our Voice Mesh Charter which contains the practical steps needed to help us and ensure women in future are protected from a repeat of this medical health scandal.

Our campaign has never been political. It is about people, and doing the right thing. Please support us.

Kind regards