



Maria Caulfield MP  
Minister for Patient Safety and Primary Care  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street,  
London,  
SW1H 0EU

18 May 2022

Dear Maria,

**Response to letter dated 30 March**

We are writing regarding your 'Dear Colleague' letter to parliamentarians dated 30 March 2022 about the work of the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety (IMMDS) Review and access to NHS Resolution.

As Members of Parliament and Peers involved in the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for First Do No Harm and the respective APPGs for hormone pregnancy tests (HPTs), sodium valproate and pelvic mesh, we are pleased that there has been progress implementing a number of the recommendations of the IMMDS Review.

We look forward in particular to the forthcoming appointment of the Patient Safety Commissioner, who will be vital in listening to patients, promoting users' perspectives and driving improvements in patient safety around the use of medicines and medical devices. We congratulate you and the Department on bringing this recommendation to near fruition. An announcement as soon as possible as to the individual appointed would be greatly welcomed.

We are however frustrated that other recommendations – including the establishment of redress schemes for those who have suffered avoidable harm related to the products in the IMMDS Review, upon which there is widespread, cross-party support in both Houses – have not so far been taken up by Government.

We were particularly disappointed to read in your letter dated 30 March that the Government continues to advocate the litigation route. This is an adversarial process that has not served affected individuals and their families well. Having seen the avoidable harm people have suffered and continue to suffer, we are firmly of the view that there is a strong ethical responsibility to provide redress. The excellent reports in The Sunday Times recently concerning sodium valproate have thrown this into even sharper relief. We believe redress is best achieved via discretionary schemes for Primodos, valproate and pelvic mesh, and we are



confident this can be done in a way that is manageable and affordable to the Exchequer.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss redress by hosting you at a meeting of the APPG for First Do No Harm. We hope this meeting can be scheduled prior to the Department's written update you referred to in your letter.

With all good wishes

Yours,

Baroness Cumberlege  
Co-Chair, APPG for First Do No Harm  
Chair, IMMDS Review (2018-20)

Caroline Nokes MP  
Chair, Women and Equalities  
Committee

Cat Smith MP  
Chair, APPG for Valproate and other  
Anti-Epileptic Drugs in Pregnancy

Yasmin Qureshi MP  
Chair, APPG on Hormone Pregnancy  
Tests

Rt Hon Theresa May MP

Sarah Green MP

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

Baroness Jolly

Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Co-Chair, APPG for First Do No Harm  
Chair, Health and Social Care Select  
Committee

Feryal Clark MP  
Shadow Minister for Primary Care and  
Patient Safety

Emma Hardy MP  
Chair, APPG on Surgical Mesh

Sharon Hodgson MP  
Vice-Chair, APPG on Surgical Mesh

Dr Julian Lewis MP

Sir Mike Penning MP

Lord Alton of Liverpool

Baroness Masham of Ilton