

PE1517/R

NHS Tayside Email of 22 August 2014

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your email of 12 August requesting comment on NHS Tayside's views of the Public Petitions Committee meeting on the 5 June, as well as the Committee's reconsideration of the petition with evidence taken from the Cabinet Secretary and subsequent communications from the acting Chief Medical Officer.

NHS Tayside discussed the implications of the statements and subsequent letters from the acting Chief Medical Officer with the clinical teams using the Polypropylene Mesh Medical Devices, and agreed its position following discussion at the directors' group meeting.

The request to consider suspending the use of these mesh devices, the letter that this request excluded the use of meshes within approved clinical trials and the noted uncertainty until the expert panel set up by the European Commission Scientific Committee on newly identified health risks review reports in early 2015 were all considered. It was concluded that NHS Tayside should follow the request made in the letter of 20 June 2014 from the acting Chief Medical Officer and suspend the use of these mesh products in surgery for pelvic prolapse and stress urinary incontinence until the review is concluded and has reported.

The impact has been that 16 patients who were previously listed for surgery have been contacted and had discussions with their clinicians on the reasons behind the suspension of these procedures, and new patients attending outpatient clinics are not being offered this treatment in the interim.

NHS Tayside continues to monitor all correspondence associated with this issue and would review its decision should circumstances change.

Regards,

Lesley McLay
Chief Executive