



Department of Health & Social Care

Steve Brine MP

23 November 2022

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your letter of Tuesday 8th November to Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. He has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Secretary of State will not be able to attend the session on Wednesday 23rd November, but I am happy to confirm that I will be attending the one-off session following up on the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review on Tuesday 13th December.

The government has made significant progress in all of the areas set out in the 2021 response and will publish an update as soon as possible. This was unfortunately delayed due to ministerial changes and the national mourning period.

The government is sympathetic to the experiences of those patients who gave evidence to the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review. We recognise the difficulties some patients have faced in accessing the information they need when considering whether and how to bring a clinical negligence claim. We have worked with NHS Resolution to address this, and NHS Resolution has published a claims gateway for those affected by pelvic mesh and sodium valproate.

Our focus is on improving patient safety. This means we continue to concentrate our work on direct support for future safety, improve how the system listens to patients, and support and monitor the safety of clinical practice where medicines and devices are concerned.

I look forward to discussing progress in implementing the review's recommendations when we meet shortly.

Kind regards,

MARIA CAULFIELD