

Petitioner submission of 1 March 2024

PE1865/QQQQ: Suspend all surgical mesh and fixation devices

We write in response to submission made by the British Hernia Society (BHS).

We thank the BHS for their response and for acknowledging what needs to be done to make progress. As mesh-afflicted patients, we are extending a sincere olive branch; we want to work together with the common aim of making herniorrhaphy surgery not only the best it can be, but also safe for future generations, backed up by robust data.

Mesh is used and placed almost everywhere in the body. When we talk about mesh, we speak for all mesh-afflicted persons, reflecting the diversity of patients in our Scottish Global Mesh Alliance community.

The denial of mesh harm from medical professionals is insidious, yet the voices of harm are crying out in their thousands. Committee Members have already noted that the similarities between patient experiences of pelvic mesh, hernia mesh, and other mesh implants is uncannily similar. If the recent Post Office scandal has taught us anything it is that acknowledging harm too late is deadly.

The BHS states that mesh complications affect a minority, but how can this be calculated accurately when there is no robust database and a lack of awareness of how to report complications? The last updated national records from 2018 stipulated it could be 1 in 10. See study into [current trends in hernia surgery in NHS England](#).