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12 July 2022

Dear Convener

### **Transvaginal Mesh Removal - Independent Providers**

As you know, in July 2021 I announced the outcome of a procurement exercise undertaken by NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) to identify out-of-NHS mesh removal services. Two preferred preferred bidders were identified: Spire Healthcare in Bristol, where Professor Hashim operates and Dr Veronikis, Missouri, USA.

Contract negotiations with Spire Healthcare concluded earlier this year and arrangements for the first patients to travel to Bristol are underway. Negotiations with Dr Veronikis have unfortunately taken much longer than we had hoped. This is in part due to the differences in healthcare systems and legal frameworks. However, I am pleased to be able to now confirm that a contract has been agreed with Gynaecologic and Reconstructive Surgery Ltd, Missouri, USA, where Dr Veronikis operates. NHS National Services Scotland will now work with NHS GGC and local Health Boards to facilitate the arrangements for those who wish to travel to the USA for mesh removal surgery.

I expect that this news will be widely welcomed by the women who have waited a long time for this outcome.

The finalisation of this contract means that we are now in a position to offer a full range of options to women who are seeking mesh removal surgery:- treatment at the Complex Pelvic Mesh Removal Service in NHS GGC, referral to one of the specialist NHS Centres in England or to one of the independent providers.

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I hope that news of this positive outcome will be welcomed by the members of the Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Yousaf', written on a white rectangular background.

**HUMZA YOUSAF**

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