



Department
of Health

*From Steve Brine MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care*

*Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS*

Helen Jones MP
Chair, Petitions Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sarah Wollaston MP
Chair, Health Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

08 November 2017

Thank you for your letter of 25th October 2017 following correspondence you had with my predecessor Nicola Blackwood about the Cost-Effectiveness Methodology for Immunisation Programmes and Procurements (CEMIPP) report. You sought an update.

The CEMIPP report was submitted to the Department in July 2016. As I think you are aware, this report is about immunisation methodology in general not meningitis B vaccination specifically. I do recognise however that there is interest in this report from stakeholders who supported the petition to expand meningitis B vaccination to all children as they are keen to know if the CEMIPP recommendations might increase the likelihood of specific vaccination programmes, or vaccines in general, being more cost effective. Whilst I recognise the fear of parents in relation to meningitis and their wish to know if this report might make a difference, it is a technically complex report with potential implications beyond immunisation. It is therefore important that it is given detailed consideration.

As you say, Nicola referred the report to Appraisal Alignment Working Group (AAWG). She actually asked the chair to submit the Group's advice by the end of November 2017. This timescale allowed the AAWG to have the time they needed to consider the report and also take into account relevant research that was not due to be published until the summer. I can confirm that the AAWG is on schedule to submit their advice to me by the end of the month.



Department
of Health

*From Steve Brine MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care*

*Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS*

I will consider the report alongside the AAWG advice and other factors that might be relevant. I remain committed to publishing the CEMIPP report in due course but I am afraid that I cannot confirm a date at the present time.

You ask for a firm commitment to consult on the Government's response to the CEMIPP report to ensure that it is informed by as wide a range of evidence and views as possible. The CEMIPP group shared their draft report with key stakeholders including the meningitis charities and submitted a summary of stakeholder views to the Department alongside the report. I will therefore have an opportunity to reflect on the stakeholder views that informed the CEMIPP report. These charities also had the opportunity to discuss the report with representatives from the AAWG. In terms of whether there will be any wider consultation, this has not been ruled out but it would not be prudent to commit to this until I have considered the CEMIPP report, the AAWG's advice and other relevant factors.

I hope that this response clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

STEVE BRINE



Petitions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel 020 7219 7614 Email petitionscommittee@parliament.uk
Website www.parliament.uk/petitions-committee

Steve Brine MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care

Department of Health

Richmond House, 79 Whitehall

London, SW1A 2NS

25 October 2017

Dear Steve,

Publication of the CEMIPP report

Before the general election, we exchanged correspondence with your predecessor, Nicola Blackwood, about the publication of the report of the Cost-Effectiveness Methodology for Immunisation Programmes and Procurements (CEMIPP) working group, chaired by Professor John Cairns.

This correspondence arose from a petition, signed by more than 800,000 people, which called for the meningitis B vaccine to be offered to all children. The Petitions and Health Committees heard extremely moving evidence from families who had lost children to meningitis, as well as from charities, medical experts, representatives of the JCVI and Professor Cairns.

We had urged your predecessor:

—to publish the CEMIPP report before the Government's response; and

—to consult on the Government's response to the CEMIPP report.

Several months have passed since our correspondence with your predecessor. I would therefore be grateful if you could provide us with an update on the Government's consideration of the CEMIPP report, and in particular answer the following questions:

- Your predecessor explained that the Government needed to wait for the advice of the Appraisal Alignment Working Group (AAWG) before responding to the CEMIPP report, and that this advice would be given in "autumn 2017". Has the Government received the AAWG's advice? If not, given that autumn 2017 has now arrived, can you give us a clear indication of when the advice will be received?

- Your predecessor was able to tell us only that the Government's response and the CEMIPP report would be published in "late 2017". Are you now able to give us a more specific date for the publication of the report?

We would also urge you to make a firm commitment to consult on the Government's response to the CEMIPP report. As we explained to your predecessor, this is a matter of very wide and serious public interest. The Government's response must be informed by as wide a range of evidence and views as possible.

We would be grateful for a reply to this letter by 10 November 2017. We will be placing this letter, and your reply, in the public domain.

Best Wishes,

Helen.

Helen Jones MP
Chair, Petitions Committee

Sarah Wollaston

Sarah Wollaston MP
Chair, Health Committee