As you may be aware, the House of Commons debated the meningitis B vaccine petition on Monday 25 April. The Committee has asked me to write to you with the transcript of the debate, so that the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation can consider this as part of its ongoing work on the meningitis B vaccine.

I would like to thank you once again for giving evidence to the Committee during its inquiry. This is an issue on which the Petitions Committee, together with our colleagues on the Health Committee and many other MPs, will be keeping a watching brief.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Jones MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee
Dear Helen,

Re: House of Commons debate about the meningitis B vaccine

Thank you for your letter dated 4th May 2016 asking that JCVI review the evidence included in the House of Commons debate on Monday 25th April 2016 about the meningitis B vaccine. I have enclosed JCVI’s further deliberations about the vaccine, which considered the petition and the subsequent hearings and debate. As you will see members of JCVI were keen to prevent meningitis B among all children but recognised in the analysis that this is not possible to achieve cost-effectively for the NHS. There was just one narrow age band for whom a cost-effective programme might be considered by the Department of Health (12-23 months of age), but catch-up vaccination of this age group would put the established infant programme at risk in view of the shortage of vaccine supply. JCVI therefore concluded that no further catch-up vaccination can be recommended at this time. We would of course be very keen to review any new data as they emerge and will keep the programme and its impact under very close review.

Yours sincerely

Andrew J Pollard
Chair of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

ccvi@phe.gov.uk

CC: Health Select Committee
CC: Professor John Watson, deputy Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Health