



# Public Administration Select Committee (PASC)

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Professor David Haslam  
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence  
10 Spring Gardens  
London  
SW1A 2BU

25 September 2014

Dear Professor Haslam,

## **PASC evidence session on sepsis**

Thank you for giving evidence to PASC in our session on 10 September in which we scrutinised progress in your implementation of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's recommendations contained in the report *Time to Act Severe Sepsis: rapid diagnosis and treatment saves lives* (September 2013).

We appreciate the need for NICE to apply methodology to ensure the quality of its work, and this depends upon experts and patients, and involves full consultation.

We do not agree that this work must always be as protracted as it appears to be. The urgency of the sepsis crisis in the NHS suggests that some interim guidance, to be made available as soon as possible, would have a significant effect, saving lives by raising awareness of symptoms and the need for improved procedures. The risk that interim guidance might not be perfect is surely outweighed by the risk facing patients with sepsis alongside the absence of any guidance at all. We are not satisfied that you have evaluated and balance these risks. Interim or provisional guidance should be published as soon as possible.

You told us this was too important to get wrong – it is also too important to delay until 2016.

Your sincerely,

**Bernard Jenkin**  
**Chairman**  
**Public Administration Select Committee**

CC  
Dan Poulter MP  
Mike Durkin, NHS England  
Ron Daniels, UK Sepsis Trust  
Sarah Wollaston MP