



# Public Administration Select Committee (PASC)

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## **PASC evidence session on (i) sepsis and (ii) midwifery supervision and regulation**

Our session on 10 September scrutinised progress in your implementation of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's recommendations contained in two reports, *Time to Act Severe Sepsis: rapid diagnosis and treatment saves lives* (September 2013), and *Midwifery supervision and regulation: recommendations for change* (December 2013). We welcomed your recognition that not enough has been done to implement the recommendations in either case.

We would appreciate your assurance that future PHSO reports will be immediately brought to the attention of the relevant Department of Health Minister. This is important as PASC has resolved to press more vigorously for progress on implementing Ombudsman recommendations.

### **(i) Sepsis**

You assured us that you would address our concerns about political leadership within the Department concerning public awareness. We look forward to receiving details of who is doing what, and how they are going to drive forward a public awareness campaign on sepsis, what budget is going to be committed, and how this relates to the 'Sign up to Safety' campaign.

We welcome the seriousness with which you discussed the challenges concerning sepsis data and the sincerity of your desire to improve it. Given the critical importance of the data, the Health and Social Care Information Centre should be tasked to improve sepsis data under the direction of your Department. We urge you to seek the advice of the UK Statistics Authority about how to improve the quality of sepsis data.

You described the 'executive safer care working group'. We look forward to receiving details of how to enhance this group's effectiveness to improve sepsis prevention, treatment and care. Both clinical and political leadership are critical, so we anticipate seeing you taking the lead on this issue in future.

NHS England must ensure sepsis is fully included in improvements to commissioning arrangements intended to improve patient safety. As sepsis is not confined to hospital settings, you should work with local authorities and other key players in public health and social care to drive progress across the systems.

**(ii) Midwifery supervision and regulation**

We are not satisfied with the slow progress in relation to midwifery supervision, to remove the conflict of interest identified by the Ombudsman. You undertook to move swiftly following the King's Fund report due in February next year. We urge you to introduce legislation or take action via a Section 60 Order *before* the general election.

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

CC  
Dan Poulter MP  
Mike Durkin, NHS England  
Ron Daniels, UK Sepsis Trust  
David Haslam, NICE  
Richard Murray, The King's Fund  
Jackie Smith, Nursing and Midwifery Council  
Juliet Beal, NHS England  
Elizabeth Duff, NCT  
Sarah Wollaston MP