



Petitions Committee

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Nicola Blackwood MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary for Public Health and Innovation
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London, SW1A 2NS

19 October 2016

Dear Nicola,

Thank you very much indeed for your response to my letter about the petition on the meningitis B vaccine. The Petitions Committee was grateful for the explanations and information you provided.

We remain concerned, however, about the absence of a clear timetable for publication of the CEMIPP report and the Government's response to it. We do understand that these are very complex issues which deserve serious consideration, and that this may take some time. Nevertheless, it is important for the petitioners—some of whom are bereaved parents who have lost children to meningitis B—to be able to have confidence that the Government is treating these matters with the urgency they deserve. A commitment to publish the report “in due course” is not likely to give them that confidence.

I would therefore be grateful for a clearer indication of when this report will be published, so that we can let the public know what they can expect. At the very least, it would be helpful to know whether we can expect publication before the end of this year.

*Best Wishes,
Helen*

Helen Jones MP

Chair of the Petitions Committee

Cc: Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair, Health Committee



Department
of Health

From Nicola Blackwood MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Innovation

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Helen Jones MP
Chair, Petitions Committee
House of Commons
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Dear Helen

Thank you for your further letter of 19 October 2016 asking for a timetable for publication of the CEMIPP report and the Government's response to it. I apologise for the delay in replying.

This is a complex report covering a range of issues. It makes a large number of recommendations, some of which would have implications beyond immunisation. CEMIPP advised in its report that its recommendations need to be viewed as a package and that is what we propose to do.

Given the potential wider implications beyond immunisation, I have referred the report to the Appraisal Alignment Working Group (AAWG) for advice. This group is chaired by the Department's Chief Economist and has membership from bodies including the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence and Public Health England as well as some independent experts including Prof John Cairns who chaired CEMIPP. The current membership is at *Annex A*.

The AAWG is an advisory body set up in March 2014 to consider the different approaches to cost-effectiveness analysis across the health and care system and to identify and share good practice. It also has the remit to advise Ministers on options to achieve greater alignment of appraisal methodologies and techniques between different sectors and organisations across the health and care sector where it makes sense to do so.

Finally the AAWG serves as an expert panel to advise on the development and application of new appraisal techniques and issues, for example whether and how to take equity into account when looking at cost effectiveness of new treatments. It is therefore ideally placed to advise the Government on the CEMIPP report to ensure

the recommendations are examined in the round and take into account relevant research. Due to the complexity of the issues to be considered and the need to take into account research that will not be available until next summer, I have asked for their advice by autumn 2017.

I would like to assure you that I remain committed to publishing the CEMIPP report. I have seriously considered whether the report should be published ahead of the Government response. However, given that the response will not be available until late 2017, I have decided that it would make most sense to publish the report once I have received the AAWG's advice. This will minimise the potential for miscommunication as we establish our response.

I do not propose to consult on the CEMIPP report. However, I will ask the AAWG to liaise with key stakeholders including the ABPI and meningitis charities to ensure that they have an opportunity to input into discussion before the AAWG offers advice. I will reflect on whether the Government should consult on its proposed response once I have received AAWG's advice.

I am copying this letter to Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair of the Health Committee.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Best wish

Nicola

NICOLA BLACKWOOD



Appraisal Alignment Working Group (AAWG): Membership

Department of Health

- Keith Derbyshire (Chair), Chief Analyst and Chief Economist
- Danny Palnoch, Senior Economic Adviser
- Dr Mark Bale, Deputy Chief Medical Officer
- Dr Gavin Roberts, Economic Adviser
- John Henderson, Economic Adviser
- Dr Peter Grove, Senior Principal Analyst
- Dr Ian McKay, Senior Scientific Officer

Office for Life Sciences

- David Glover, Head of Analysis

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

- Leeza Osipenko, Associate Director

Public Health England

- Prof Brian Ferguson, Director for Knowledge & Intelligence
- Dr Anne Mackie, Director of Screening

NHS Improvement

- John Curnow, Economics Project Director
- Rebecca Hand, Senior Economist

NHS England

- Dr Donald Franklin, Senior Economic Adviser NHS England
- Lindsay Gardiner, Senior Economist

Brunel University

- Prof Martin Buxton, Emeritus Professor of Health Economics

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Representing Joint Committee for Vaccines and Immunisations and Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs

- Prof John Cairns, Professor of Health Economics

Other attendees:

- Prof John Brazier, Sheffield University
- Prof Karl Claxton, York University
- Prof Mark Sculpher, York University
- Dr James Lomas, York University
- Dr Steve Martin, York University
- Tongtong Qian, Department of Health
- Caroline Lee, Department of Health
- Timothy Davies, Department of Health