

2 March 2026

Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Sent by email only to [dhsc.sofs@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:dhsc.sofs@dhsc.gov.uk)

Re: **Compensation scheme for patients affected by valproate and pelvic mesh**

Dear Wes,

Thank you for your ongoing support in championing the voices of patients across the healthcare system, particularly when it comes to those who have been harmed.

I was very pleased to note your recent statement on ITV News, committing to deliver a compensation scheme for the thousands of victims of the valproate and pelvic mesh scandals before the next general election.

I welcome this Government's continued commitment to improving care for patients who have been harmed, and indeed it was very helpful to meet with Minister Ahmed recently to discuss the Hughes report and other patient safety matters. However, two years have now passed since the publication of the Hughes Report in February 2024, and whilst progress has been made in relation to non-financial aspects of redress, further clarity would be helpful on the arrangements and timetable for financial redress.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss progress on taking forward the recommendations of the Hughes report in particular, the scope for interim payments to support families experiencing acute financial hardship. I recognise that delivery of the scheme will require cross government coordination, and so I will also be writing to No10 to request an update on progress to date.

I look forward to continuing to engage collaboratively with you on this important work and I am happy to share any additional information that you may require in order to expedite the Government's consideration of the Hughes Report.

I am also copying this letter to Minister Ahmed.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Henrietta Hughes OBE FRCGP SFFMLM

Patient Safety Commissioner for England