

The Rt Hon Keir Stammer MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

16 June 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

Hughes Report: request for information

Nearly two and a half years ago, the Hughes Report set out clear and urgent recommendations shaped by the experience of patients harmed by valproate and pelvic mesh and the systemic failures that followed. It provided compelling evidence of enduring gaps in recognition of harm, access to redress, and the adequacy of support available to affected patients. These are not new concerns, but as the Hughes Report highlighted, they continue to have significant consequences for those who have been harmed and indeed continue to do so.

The recommendations in the Hughes Report are direct and actionable. They address fundamental issues in how the system responds to harm, including the need for timely acknowledgment, fair and accessible routes to compensation, and a more coordinated, compassionate response from Government and public bodies. The continued absence of visible and timely progress against these recommendations risks perpetuating the very harms and inequities the Hughes Report identifies.

Given the seriousness of these findings, and the continued impact on patients and their families, it is disappointing that the Government still hasn't provided a substantive response to the Hughes Report. There is a clear need for transparency and accountability regarding the Government's response. Understanding what action has been taken, and where progress has been made, is essential to driving improvement and restoring confidence with patients and the public.

Further to my previous request for information to DHSC, I am therefore writing formally to exercise my powers under the Medicines and Medical Devices Act 2021

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(Schedule 1, paragraph 3), to request further information in order to support the discharge of my statutory duties. Under my statutory powers, I would therefore request the following information, by 16th July:

1. Internal and Cross-Government Discussions

Information on discussions held across Government in relation to the Hughes Report, including:

- a. Details and dates of Ministerial meetings
- b. Details and dates of official-level discussions
- c. Details and dates of any cross-departmental engagement
- d. Minister to Minister correspondence on the topic.

2. Actions taken beyond DHSC

Details of all actions taken by departments since publication of the Hughes Report in response to its recommendations, over and above the information previously provided by DHSC including:

- a. Briefings for Ministers
- b. Policy decisions
- c. Any programme activity, including considerations of feasibility or costs.

3. Future Plans

Clarity on what information remains outstanding for Ministers to make a decision regarding redress and the timetable for a full response to my recommendations, and details of any ongoing or planned work to consider or implement the Hughes Report recommendations.

My office is available to discuss the scope of this request with your officials to facilitate a timely and complete response.

I look forward to receiving your response so that I can keep patient groups and parliamentarians who are in touch with me regularly updated. To this end, both this letter and the response received will also be published on my website.

Yours sincerely,

Email: commissioner@patientsafetycommissioner.org.uk
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Hughes'.

Prof Henrietta Hughes OBE FRCGP SFFMLM
Patient Safety Commissioner

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