

# Nicola Sturgeon should ban mesh products

30 March 2017

The mesh implant scandal has caused misery for hundreds of women in Scotland.

The implants are medical devices used by doctors to treat a number of conditions such as incontinence and other issues that can occur after childbirth.

Some women have reported severe and constant abdominal and vaginal pain following the surgery, with some women experiencing infections, bleeding and even paralysis. Many have said their original incontinence symptoms have not been improved by the surgery.

You can read more about this by clicking [here](#).

Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale raised the scandal at First Minister's Questions in the Scottish Parliament on Thursday. She called on Nicola Sturgeon to ban the use of mesh products in Scotland's NHS which have left hundreds of women paralysed and in horrific pain.

An independent review of the use of mesh has been beset by scandal with survivors and clinicians resigning from the review group claiming the report has been compromised and 'whitewashed'. Former SNP Health Secretary Alex Neil branded the final review report as ["totally unacceptable"](#).

At First Minister's Questions Kezia Dugdale read out an email from the daughter of a mesh survivor to the SNP Health Secretary Shona Robison, which detailed the impact of mesh implants on the lives of countless women in Scotland. The email was sent at 2.30am on Thursday morning while Sophie cared for her mother.

The email said:

*Ms Robinson,*

*I'm contacting you this morning as you announce the MESH INDEPENDENT INQUIRY. HOW CAN YOU?!!!!*

*I attended Parliament, when you apologised to my Mum, who is a member of Scottish mesh survivors. I saw hope and maybe relief in my sick, disabled mums eyes.*

*You see Im struggling to remember my mum, before took her from me, no she's not dead, but she is a shell of the mum I'd previously loved adored and inspired by.*

*You have to come live a day in our life, on the days when the pain is so bad, my fiercely independent mum, can't even brush her teeth.*

*I come home to share my apprenticeship and life's troubles etc, and my loving mum is so doped out her head , I know she won't remember our conversation. She blames herself for my lack of education, but it's hard to concentrate at school knowing your mums home crying in pain.*

*You know Ms Robison, my mum once thought and planned taking her own life, but something stopped her, a few days later she read "Hear our voice". She had a sparkle back in her eye, as she was no longer alone or Unique. I believe finding Scottish mesh survivors, saved my mum.*

*But Ms Robison, your Independent inquiry, is flawed so badly that your going to allow another family, young girl ( I'm 18,my mums been ill since I was 11) to experience this journey and that's so wrong. I had hoped you were going to prevent a child ,living like me.*

*I'm the next generation of Scottish woman, who you Catherine Calderwood MHRA , HAVE FAILED.*

*I LEAVE YOU WITH THIS THOUGHT," its 2:19 am, and my mum has a UTI, and in extreme pain is now in my bed, with me, as her pain meds cause her to be unsteady on her feet, and I need her to be safe. i deserve to have my mum here for all my Firsts..*

*So let down  
Sophie (18)*

**Speaking after First Minister's Questions, Kezia Dugdale said:**

*"Scottish mesh survivors are a group of women whose lives have been destroyed by a medical procedure that was supposed to help them get better.*

*"The heart-breaking story of Sophie, the 18-year old daughter of a mesh survivor, shows the devastating impact the mesh scandal has had on the lives of hundreds of women.*

*"One woman I spoke with can't sit down without excruciating pain and others have been paralysed. These women feared that the review into the use of mesh products would be a whitewash but that's exactly what it is.*

*"The mesh review was a cover-up. It is a national scandal. Nicola Sturgeon must listen to the mesh survivors and ban this dangerous practice."*

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**[Ten things you may have missed this week](#)**

## TEN THINGS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED THIS WEEK

While Nicola Sturgeon focused on her plan for a divisive second independence referendum, here are ten things that happened under the SNP government this week:

- 1. New statistics revealed the SNP government has failed cancer patients for the FOURTH year running as waiting time standards were missed again.*
- 2. Victims of rape and sexual assault are being forced to wait days for being examined according to a damning report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland. It found that services for rape victims were 'unacceptable' and often lagging behind those available in England and Wales.*
- 3. It was revealed there are 6,000 fewer beds in Scotland's hospitals since the SNP took office in 2007.*
- 4. Hundreds of women who have suffered life-changing injuries because of mesh operations used to treat issues such as post-childbirth incontinence were let down by a whitewash government report which withheld information about the dangers of the implants.*
- 5. The SNP ditched a promise to reduce junior doctors working hours – a promise made after a young female doctor died after driving home following a nightshift.*
- 6. It was announced that the opening of the Queensferry Crossing, the third bridge across the Forth, will be delayed by eight months.*
- 7. The alarming scale of overcrowding on ScotRail trains emerged, with some services recording up to 146% occupancy at rush hour.*
- 8. SNP government minister Keith Brown was forced to apologise for the collapse of a secretive investment deal with two Chinese firms, one of which was revealed to have been named in an Amnesty International report on human rights abuses.*
- 9. The redevelopment of Glasgow's Queen Street Station has been delayed, MSPs were informed by Network Rail.*
- 10. New figures revealed that fewer students from poorer backgrounds are going to Scotland's ancient universities for the second year in a row.*

The SNP government should focus on the job of governing. That means focusing on jobs, growing the economy and helping family incomes. That's why Labour has set out costed plans to stop the SNP's £170m cuts to local communities

and why we'll support families by campaigning for an increase in Child Benefit.

On May 4th, there are local elections across Scotland. Only Labour has a plan to move Scotland forward, not backwards with another divisive referendum. Labour will be focused on delivering quality local services, such as schools, social care and standing up for our NHS. Read more [here](#)

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## **A new Board and a new era for HCC**

Appointed to the HCC Board with effect from 1 April 2017 are:

Barrie Jones  
Catherine Smith  
Claire Louise Williams  
Gareth Wynn Davies  
Helen Howells  
Huw Davies  
Illtud Dunsford  
John T Davies  
Ogwen Williams  
Rachael Madeley Davies

The recruitment exercise for the new Board sought to attract a more diverse field of candidates with broad experience and a good knowledge of the agriculture sector in Wales.

The Cabinet Secretary said:

“I was seeking to deliver a Board able to support and challenge the executive around the key areas of strategic planning, corporate governance and marketing. Reflecting on Kevin Roberts’ recommendations from his recent review of HCC, I wanted individual Board members able to communicate and engage directly and effectively with levy payers.

“I am particularly pleased the process has delivered a gender-balanced Board reflecting the diverse talent within agriculture in Wales. I want to see more women in important leadership roles.”

While ten candidates were recommended for Board appointment, the Selection Panel did not feel able to recommend any of the applicants for appointment to the vacant Chair role.

The Cabinet Secretary added:

“The role of HCC in a post Brexit world will be even more important. We need a Chair able to lead the organisation into this new uncertain era and I will shortly launch a new recruitment exercise to find the person able to take on that important role. In the meantime, I have asked Kevin Roberts, who undertook the recent review of HCC, is the current independent Chair of Amaeth Cymru, and who has considerable experience of the industry and levy bodies, to take on the role of Chair on an interim only basis. I am grateful Kevin has agreed to serve for the short period needed while the new recruitment exercise runs its course.”

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## **News story: How does your organisation approach research and innovation?**

Share your thoughts on business and innovation in the UK and internationally to help inform how we support people like you.

Entrepreneurs are being invited to complete a survey by Innovate UK for their views on innovation and international markets.

We'll be using the results to inform our propositions and service design to better suit your needs.

Among the questions we want to find out are:

- how much effort you're investing in evolving or development new products, services and processes, as well as in new areas
- how much you expect to grow in the next 2 years, and any barriers or challenges stopping you from doing so
- what your plans are for international activities

We are seeking views from businesses of any size, whether you are at the start of your innovation journey or have long embedded innovative practices in your organisation.

The survey is open until 23 April 2017. We will be sharing insights later in the year.

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# Brexit makes action on self-employment all the more urgent – John McDonnell

## **Brexit**

**makes action on self-employment all the more urgent, and Britain should lead the way in supporting the self-employed, says Labour**

In

the wake of the triggering of Article 50, Labour held a Self-Employment Summit

this morning to discuss the needs of the self-employed in the Brexit negotiations and beyond.

The

Summit, the first held by Labour's Commission on Self-Employment, was hosted by

the Federation of Small Business (FSB) and attended by key stakeholders, including the TUC, the GMB, the British Chamber of Commerce, and the Co-operative Party.

## **John**

**McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, said:**

"Labour's self-employment summit

today looked at all aspects of self-employment and the gig economy, including how any changes to the tax system should be aligned with increasing support for the self-employed.

"With the number of self-employed

people due to overtake public sector workers by 2018, we will develop a package

of measures for self-employed people that will form a major part of Labour's offer at the next General Election. While the Tories are prepared to attack the

living standards of the self-employed, Labour are listening and will act to address the real issues they are facing."

**Mike Cherry, FSB National Chairman, said:**

"The future success of the UK economy rests

squarely on the shoulders of the UK's army of the self-employed. These are the entrepreneurs, the risk-takers, the freelancers, the strivers – and without them we simply wouldn't have a thriving economy, just as we face Brexit.

"FSB

worked with the Labour frontbench and MPs from all parties to kill off the £2bn

tax hike on the self-employed. We now need a proper policy debate about future support for this critical part of the UK economy.”

**Tim Roache,  
General Secretary of the GMB Union, said:**

“Philip Hammond made a hash of his first Budget by completely failing to look the wide range of issues facing people currently classified as self-employed. This initiative from Labour comes at a crucial time when work in all its forms is increasingly unclear and uncertain.

“GMB has genuinely self-employed members but we also have plenty of members who are at a loss as to what their employment status is or have been wrongly told they are self-employed by employers hell-bent on shirking their legal and moral responsibilities.

“How many scandals and court cases do we have to see before government ministers and HMRC stop twiddling their thumbs and start taking their enforcement role seriously? It’s time that politicians grasped this nettle.”