

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

**17th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Tuesday,
16 May 2023**

Complex Mesh Surgical Service

Note by the clerk

Today's meeting

1. At its meeting today, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee will take evidence from the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health on the nationally designated centre in Scotland for women with transvaginal mesh complications. This centre is known as the [Complex Mesh Surgical Service \(CMSS\)](#) and is hosted by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Background

2. During the Committee's scrutiny of the [Transvaginal Mesh Removal \(Cost Reimbursement\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) (hereafter referred to as 'the Bill'), the Committee heard from some individuals, who have been harmed by mesh and have experienced a breakdown in trust in NHS Scotland services, that they were not convinced the CMSS would meet patient's expectations or provide the standard of care required.
3. The Committee has also heard evidence that the service has been subject to long waiting times and, at the time when the Committee was scrutinising the Bill, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde was operating at 40 to 45 per cent of its pre-Covid level of elective activity, which had an impact on waiting times for mesh removal surgery.
4. In its [Stage 1 report](#) on the Bill, the Committee noted it would continue to take an active interest in the operation of the CMSS and committed to take further evidence on the service in due course.
5. The Committee issued a [call for evidence](#) on 10 February 2023, addressed to women affected by transvaginal mesh, to help the Committee understand people's experiences of the CMSS to date. The survey closed on 24 March 2023 and the Committee received 75 responses. The Committee agreed in advance that individual responses to this survey would not be published. Instead, a summary of written responses was produced by research colleagues and can be read here: [Experiences of the Complex Mesh Surgical Service | Scottish Parliament Website](#).

6. The Committee scrutinised the Service at its meeting on 2 May 2023, where it took evidence from:
 - Dr Alan Mathers, Chief of Medicine for Women and Children's Services, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, on behalf of the CMSS
 - Dr Wael Agur, Lead Urogynaecologist, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, and member of the Scottish Government's mesh complications working group
 - Dr Anna Lamont, Medical Director, Procurement Commissioning and Facilities, NHS National Services Scotland
 - Terry O'Kelly, Senior Medical Adviser, Scottish Government.

7. In advance of that meeting the committee received the following information:
 - An [update on the CMSS](#) from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, 26 April 2023.
 - [A letter from the Chief Medical Officer's Directorate](#) concerning the CMSS patient experience survey, 1 May 2023.

8. Following the session, the Committee received [follow-up information](#) from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde in relation to questions from the Committee on information and communication.

Clerks to the Committee

11 May 2023