



Department
of Health

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John McDonnell MP
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From Dr Dan Poulter MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health

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30 JUN 2014

Dear John,

Thank you for your recent letter which included correspondence between Professor Dua and the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) about proper representation for cosmetic refractive surgery on the Cosmetic Surgery Interspecialty Committee (CSIC).

As we discussed in our meeting on 6th May, Sir Bruce Keogh's independent review of the regulation of cosmetic interventions considered a broad sweep of cosmetic interventions and looked, in particular, at certain high risk practices.

However, it did not single out cosmetic refractive surgery, but made recommendations about the practice of cosmetic surgery more generally. Therefore, we felt that it was appropriate to include it in the work being taken forward. Consequently, the RCS was asked to include cosmetic refractive surgery in its scope of work.

As I explained, representatives from the Royal College of Ophthalmologists sit on the CSIC and all three subgroups which are undertaking the different work streams –

- Standards for Training and Certification,
- Clinical Qualities and Outcomes and
- Patient Information subgroup.

I can assure you that we share your concerns that high standards of treatment are universal when performing cosmetic refractive surgery. We are working closely with the RCS to ensure that cosmetic refractive surgery is appropriately considered in their scope of work. As agreed in our meeting, I will be writing to the President of the RCS, Norman Williams, to highlight the need for appropriate representation on the CSIC for this area of cosmetic surgery.

Finally, due to heavy pressures on my diary, it is not feasible for me to meet with Sasha Rodoy at this time. However, she may wish to meet with my officials to discuss her personal experience and her good work in raising awareness of, and highlighting the issues and risks associated with, refractive eye surgery.

If this approach is suitable, please ask her to contact Noel Griffin at Noel.Griffin@dh.gsi.gov.uk or Tim Baxter at Tim.Baxter@dh.gsi.gov.uk to discuss further.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Poulter', with a horizontal line underneath.

DR DAN POULTER