

Greg Clark MP
Science and Technology Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Bristol and London, 30 January 2020

S&T Committee engagement on clinical trial transparency in the new Parliament

Dear Mr Clark,

Congratulations on your election as Chair of the Science and Technology Committee.

The last Committee's enquiry into clinical trial transparency resulted in substantial progress in reducing and preventing waste of medical research funds, and in filling gaps in the medical evidence base. We urge you to take up and continue this important work in the new Parliament.

Thanks to the Committee's strong engagement, four times as many trial results were uploaded by UK universities in 2019 than during the four previous years combined, the national medicines regulator MHRA has updated registry entries, and the Health Research Authority is drawing up a transparency strategy. All of these developments will benefit UK taxpayers and NHS patients, and [bolster the UK's reputation as a global leader in medical research](#).

While significant progress has been achieved, the UK has yet to put into place a comprehensive national monitoring system backed by effective sanctions to ensure that in future, all clinical trials are registered and make their results public in a timely fashion.

As your predecessor Norman Lamb MP wrote in an [open letter](#) to the incoming Science and Technology Committee:

*"We know the consequences of non-compliance with reporting requirements: wasted money and research, publication bias and risks to human health... The Committee's work has led to a real momentum in this area, but **there is a risk of this diminishing if scrutiny of relevant bodies and organisations is not maintained**. This is particularly crucial as the Health Research Authority's new Research Transparency Strategy (as recommended by the Committee) is expected in 2020 and will require further scrutiny by the Committee... **I hope that you might be able to take up... this work in the new Parliament.**"*

The Committee's work during 2018-2019 demonstrated that engagement by Parliament on this topic can have a strong positive impact on an issue of crucial importance for NHS patients, including the nearly one million NHS patients who volunteer to take part in clinical trials every year. The year 2020 offers a unique policy window for leveraging the current momentum to bring about the systemic changes required to resolve this issue once and for all.

We urge you to continue engaging on the issue of clinical trial transparency in the new Parliament.

Thank you for your time, best wishes,

- Action against Medical Accidents
- Cochrane
- HealthWatch
- JustTreatment
- Sling the Mesh
- STOPAIDS
- T1International
- Transparency International Health Initiative
- TranspariMED
- Universities Allied for Essential Medicines Europe
- Universities Allied for Essential Medicines UK

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