

1823/I

Petitioner submission of 20 December 2020

I would like to provide this written submission in response to the Scottish Government submission of 11th December 2020.

I would like to refer the Scottish Government to my submission of 5th December 2020. In this submission, I have mentioned new research being developed that allows a baby's brain to be scanned without the need for sedation (more information and references can be found in this previous submission). Although this method is still being tested and further developed, it will hopefully provide promising results that babies can potentially be given brain and body scans safely and will provide a safer method of testing for hidden conditions such as AVM. The best way of trying to find out just how rare conditions such as AVM really are is to provide screening for everyone. Only then will we know approximately how many people are actually living with such a condition and only then can we try to develop appropriate treatment methods for this condition.

As I mentioned in the 5th December submission, I appreciate such screening methods can be costly and as with all medical procedures, not without risk. But if such screening methods can potentially save lives, then surely, they should be implemented? Make it optional and leave the decision up to parents to decide if they want their child to be given a brain or body scan. If anything, we should try to put more money towards screening and research into rare conditions such as AVM, simply because so little is known about these conditions, but the effects of these conditions can be devastating and often fatal. That one brain scan, had it been offered to me seventeen years ago could potentially have saved my child. How many children do we have to lose before we decide to take some action? This is a potentially important, life saving screening programme that should certainly be considered for the future.