

PAUL BURSTOW'S LETTER EXPLAINING WHY THE MILITARY ARE SCREENED WHEREAS
CIVILIANS ARE NOT EVEN WARNED

*From Paul Burstow MP
Minister of State for Care Services*



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Dear Richard

16 APR 2012

Thank you for your letter of 14 March on behalf of one of your constituents about brain injuries.

I was sorry to read that you did not find my Written Answer to your question in the House of Commons on 8 March helpful.

Instances of post-traumatic hypopituitarism are a relatively unusual complication related to the severity of the head injury. Severe head injuries are more frequently seen in a military setting, and as such, there are no plans to extend routine screening and advice on post traumatic hypopituitarism to those with head injuries admitted to NHS hospitals. As outlined in my Written Answer, these decisions remain a matter for trained health professionals who can consider all aspects of each case and make judgements on the risk of hypopituitarism.

Your constituent may be interested to know that guidance on hypopituitarism following head injury is available on the Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS) website at www.cks.nhs.uk, and can be obtained by clicking on the 'clinical topics' bar and followed by clicking on the 'neurological' section under the clinical speciality heading, then 'head injury' and finally 'persistent symptoms'. The website provides information and clinical guidance for health professionals treating patients with head injuries and has a list of symptoms to be aware of that may indicate hypopituitarism and suggests referral to an endocrinologist for further investigation.

Anyone who has concerns about the application of good practice in managing patients with brain injuries can raise the matter locally through the NHS

complaints procedure, more information about which can be found on the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk by typing 'complaints' into the search bar.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Burstow', written in a cursive style.

PAUL BURSTOW

