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9 January 2026

My Noble Lords,

I want to thank you for your contribution to the oral question on 5th January 2026 on sudden cardiac death and screening for young people.

I am writing to provide additional clarity to some remarks I made in the debate. When responding to the comment from the Noble Lord, Lord Kamall, regarding the incidence of sudden cardiac death in sport in Italy, I stated that, "Comparisons of screening programmes with other health systems can be misleading. For example, the programme in Italy operates only in the area around Venice; it is not a national screening programme. The published data is unclear and we have requested further information."

This government takes its advice from the UK National Screening Committee. The Committee set certain criteria by which they determine whether a health intervention fits the definition of a screening programme. In the UK, a screening programme provides an end-to-end pathway starting with a defined (electronic) cohort, testing, treatment and care. I would like to clarify that the published papers suggest that Italy nationally mandates a test, rather than a full quality assured end-to-end programme with production of national statistics. We have been unable to locate available data for Italy. That is why I stated that Italy does not have a national screening programme.

I hope the above response proves useful. I am copying this letter to the editor of Hansard. I have deposited a copy of this letter in the Library of both houses.

Yours sincerely,

BARONESS BLAKE OF LEEDS, CBE