Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health Committee

Further to that important point about biosimilars, and in welcoming this legislation and the opportunity to create savings for the NHS, will the Secretary of State also address the long-standing issues around Lucentis and Avastin? George Freeman updated the House about the barriers in both domestic and European legislation that prevent the use of Avastin—“it is not licensed for wet age-related macular degeneration”—but the scale of savings could be so vast that there is a case for introducing measures in the Bill to allow for such issues to be addressed.

Jeremy Hunt The Secretary of State for Health

I am happy to look into that—some of my own constituents have been affected by that issue. I am not aware that there is scope to consider that important point in the Bill, but we should reflect on what we can do to deal with some of the anomalies in the drug licensing regime that lead to the unintended consequences that my hon. Friend talks about.

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