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The Rt Hon. Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
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15 June 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

You will have seen my recent exchange of letters with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on social care funding. The Economic Affairs Committee report, *Social care funding: time to end a national scandal*, was published on 4 July 2019 and it has still not received a Government response.

The social care sector is on the frontline of the current public health crisis. This has only served to highlight that its career structure needs urgently to be put on an equal footing with that of NHS workers to recognise its social importance and the skills of its staff. Funding must be made fairer and sustainable for the benefit of this and future generations. Our report sets out how this can be achieved fairly and set out how much it would cost.

Social care must be brought closer to the NHS by introducing free personal care. Those in care homes would still pay for their accommodation and assistance with less critical needs like housework or shopping. Those receiving care in their own homes would not have to pay accommodation costs, which may encourage care users to seek essential help with personal care early.

I was disappointed by the Chancellor's response to my letter which said that our report must be considered only "alongside the other reports that have been published in recent years". The Government is accountable directly to Parliament and it has a duty and responsibility to reply to Committee reports in a timely way, usually within two months. You said previously that the Department would not be able to meet the usual deadline, but you must agree that 11 months is not only an inordinate amount of time for us to wait but is a breach of parliamentary convention.

I expect to receive the response to our report imminently. I would be grateful if you could reply to this letter with a date by which the Committee can expect to receive it. I am copying this letter to the Chancellor and I intend to place it, along with your reply, in the public domain.

Yours ever,

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

The Rt Hon. the Lord Forsyth of Drumlean
Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee

Cc. The Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer