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Helen Whately MP  
Minister of State for Care  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
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14 July 2020

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your response to my letter regarding the Economic Affairs Committee report on social care.

While I note the Government's decision to seek a consensus, through cross-party talks, on a long-term model for social care, this does not prevent action now on many of the most important recommendations in our report.

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, we found that the sector was severely overstretched. It needs urgent investment just to raise care quality and access to 2009/10 standards. At the time that our report was published, we heard that this would cost £8 billion. Research since indicates this figure may now be higher. Nevertheless, without the necessary up-front investment, the gap between funding and need will continue to widen dangerously, the pressure on unpaid carers and local authorities will increase, and the most vulnerable in society will suffer as a result. Continued cross-party talks are not necessary for mitigating this immediate funding crisis.

Furthermore, there is no reason why action should not be taken now to provide higher pay to care workers in publicly funded care providers, as we recommended. The sector's response to the pandemic must be recognised without further delay.

I look forward to meeting you to discuss the report in more detail. I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I intend to place a copy, 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. Matt Hancock MP  
The Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP