



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From Helen Whately MP  
Minister of State for Care

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

020 7210 4850

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The Rt Hon. the Lord Forsyth of Drumlean  
Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

Thank you for your letter on this important issue. I welcome the report following the inquiry of the Economic Affairs Committee into Social Care Funding in England.

The Government remains committed to its manifesto pledge to seek a cross-party consensus in order to bring forward the necessary proposal and legislation for long-term reform. You will have seen that I wrote to all MPs and Peers in March asking them to voice their views, solutions and concerns about reforming the way that people pay for their care as the first step of cross-party talks on social care reform.

My view is that the Committee's extremely thorough and informative report deserves a comprehensive response, but I do not want to pre-empt the outcome of any cross-party talks in doing so.

As you rightly highlight, the social care sector has been on the front line during the pandemic and this has served to highlight the extraordinary work of this sector and the crucial role it plays. We will continue to do everything in our power to make sure those who rely on care get the care they need throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as we cautiously ease lockdown restrictions. We are determined to protect all carers and people receiving care from the still present risk of infection.

I understand that we are due to meet shortly to discuss both your report: *Social care funding: time to end a national scandal*, and any further reflections you have on reform and the recent pandemic. I am very much looking forwards to this.

**HELEN WHATELY**