



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

020 7210 4850

POC_1405801

The Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

19 May 2022

Dear Tobias,

Thank you for copying me into your correspondence to Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP, Secretary of State for Defence. I have noted the issues you raise and would like to provide reassurance that the government is committed to supporting people living with a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), including veterans.

I understand how TBI can have a devastating impact on an individual, with its impact felt across many aspects of their life. As well as more direct health impacts, it affects family life, it can disrupt close relationships, it can make employment more difficult and it can severely damage an individual's personal finances. Those living with more severe acquired brain injuries (ABI), such as TBI, are likely to have complex long-term problems affecting their cognitive and functional abilities, personality, close relationships and ability to return to an independent life.

The government acknowledges that more can be done to support people living with an ABI and on 3 December 2021 the Minister for Care and Mental Health, Gillian Keegan published a Written Ministerial Statement setting out that the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) would lead development of a cross government strategy. The statement can be found at the following link:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-12-02/hcws438>

The content of the strategy will be informed by a Call for Evidence, which is currently live and will be open until 6 June 2022. The government is inviting stakeholders nationwide, including healthcare professionals, people living with an ABI, their families and carers, to put forward their views about what should be prioritised within the strategy and whether there are other similar or related neurological conditions which should be considered for inclusion.

I would encourage you to respond to this consultation and to promote it amongst your contacts, including veterans who have a TBI and their families. It is so important that we hear directly from people affected by ABI and my officials are co-ordinating work to ensure

that the strategy takes full account of their views. We are keen to ensure that as many people as possible are aware of the Call for Evidence and have the opportunity to respond to it, to ensure that we fully consider the profound impact an ABI can have on an individual and their loved ones and build a strategy around their priorities and needs. A link to the Call for Evidence follows:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/acquired-brain-injury-call-for-evidence/acquired-brain-injury-call-for-evidence>

As the strategy will be cross government we will continue to work closely with colleagues at the Ministry of Defence to ensure the strategy considers the needs of both service personnel and veterans. I am sure that the Ministry of Defence will also respond to you in due course, regarding their work in this area.

In terms of the specific approach to Magnetoencephalography (MEG) scans and their wider adoption in the NHS, you may already be aware that in their provision of services, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) must have due regard to guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Whilst there is currently no NICE guidance available on MEG scans, NICE are in the early stages of developing guidance on rehabilitation for chronic neurological disorders including TBI. Whilst they are unable to advise what this guideline will cover at this time, it will, as with all NICE guidelines, be based on the best available evidence and developed in partnership with stakeholders. Further details on the work to develop the guidance, including a link to register as a stakeholder can be found here:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10181>

I hope this reassures you that the government is committed to supporting all patients including those living with TBI and I hope you will consider contributing to the Call for Evidence for the ABI strategy.

Yours ever,



RT HON SAJID JAVID MP