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Rt Hon. Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
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4 February 2021

Dear Matt,

I was surprised to see that the Department for Health and Social Care has published a response to the Health and Social Care Committee's report, *Social care: funding and workforce*, which was published in October 2020.

The Economic Affairs Committee published its report, *Social care funding: time to end a national scandal*, in July 2019 but this has still not received a Government response 19 months later. The two reports examine many of the same issues; indeed, the Health and Social Care Committee report refers to the conclusions and recommendations of the Economic Affairs Committee report throughout.

In July 2020, I was told the Department did not wish "to pre-empt the outcome of any cross-party talks" by providing a response to our report. In a debate on the report last week in the House of Lords, Lord Bethell informed me that the Department was still considering the Economic Affairs Committee's recommendations. Why was the Department able to respond to the Health and Social Care Committee's report but not to the Economic Affairs Committee report? Why did providing a response to that report not pre-empt cross-party talks?

As you know, the convention is that Government Departments should respond to Committee reports in a timely way, usually within two months. When will the Economic Affairs Committee receive a response to its report?

Yours ever
Michael.

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