



# Department of Health & Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street  
London  
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03/01/2025

Dear Layla,

Since the general election, the Prime Minister and I have been struck by the willingness and enthusiasm that exists across the House to take a cross-party approach to the issue of social care reform. In that spirit, I am delighted to inform you that the Prime Minister has asked Louise Casey, Baroness Casey of Blackstock, to lead an Independent Commission on adult social care. Louise is one of Whitehall's best known 'doers' and greatest social reformers. She has worked with governments and politicians from across the political spectrum and I can think of no one better to help forge a national consensus around one of the biggest challenges of our generation.

We all know adult social care in this country is in crisis. Access is falling, costs are rising, and a lack of capacity is piling pressure on the NHS. As our population ages, and the needs of disabled people become more complex, these challenges are only going to increase.

Reporting directly to the Prime Minister, the Commission will help us develop a long-term plan to build a National Care Service for our country, able to meet the needs of older and disabled people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It will work with people who draw on care and their families and carers, staff, and the public, private and third sector to make clear recommendations for how to rebuild the adult social care system to meet the current and future needs of the people and families who rely on care.

This commission will be conducted in two phases:

- The first phase will identify the critical issues facing adult social care and set out recommendations for immediate reform. It will recommend tangible, pragmatic, and cost-effective solutions to lay the foundations for the National Care Service. This phase will report back in 2026, and its recommendations will be aligned with our current and future spending commitments.
- The second phase will make long-term recommendations for the transformation of adult social care. It will report in 2028 and will build on the first phase to re-evaluate the model of care in this country so that it can best meet future demand fairly and affordably.

I hope the Health and Social Care Select Committee, given its cross party role and adult social care expertise, will be able to work with Baroness Casey's Commission in order to achieve cross party consensus on long term reform plans for adult social care. I am particularly interested in your current inquiry on the costs of inaction, which I am sure will be a key piece of evidence for Baroness Casey's inquiry.

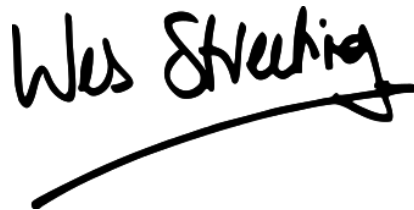
In the meantime, we are working hard to stabilise the social care sector in England. Since July, we have included the first ever Fair Pay Agreements for social care in the Employment Rights Bill, announced the biggest expansion of Carers' Allowance since the 1970s, and the Budget increased

the spending power of social care authorities by up to £3.7 billion including an £880 million increase in the Social Care Grant. Today I am also setting out a further series of reforms designed to begin addressing the very real, and ongoing, challenges faced by the adult social care system, including an immediate injection of an additional £86 million through the Disabled Facilities Grant to give greater independence and freedom for disabled people.

The country is paying a heavy price for the failure to reform adult social care. Together, we have a one in a generation opportunity to put this right. I really hope we can work together to achieve our shared aim of providing older and disabled people with the independence, freedom and quality of life they deserve.

As ever, I look forward to giving evidence to your committee formally in 2025, but I'd also be delighted to come and brief you and your committee informally on the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wes Streeting". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

**RT HON WES STREETING MP**