



**Health and Social Care
Committee**

**Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU**

Wednesday, 16 July 2025

Subject: "Adult Social Care Reform: the cost of inaction" Government response

Dear Wes,

Thank you for your response to our recent report Adult Social Care Reform: the cost of inaction, which we note was laid before Parliament on the afternoon of Friday 4th July.

While we are grateful to receive this response, and to have done so within the expected timeframe, we are disappointed that the Government chose to share its response with all parliamentarians, and the public, without granting the Committee sufficient advance notice and time to read and digest the contents. Over the last 9 months, I believe we have developed a relationship of understanding and mutual respect, and I do not believe the way in which the response was shared with the Committee is within the spirit of collaboration that we have established. For future responses, I would be grateful if we could revert to the previous approach where the response was sent as a memorandum to the Committee for us to publish.

I would also ask that future responses clearly state whether the Government "accepts", "rejects" or "partially accepts" a recommendation.

Turning to the response itself, the Committee would be grateful if more clarity could be provided on a number of points, as set out below:

- The introduction to the response states that the action taken so far includes "the largest ever uplift to the Carer's Allowance of £2,000". **Can you confirm what this is referring to, and whether it is meant to refer to the uplift to the earnings limit, rather than an uplift to the allowance itself?**
- On the Committee's recommendations to collect data about care workers receiving Universal Credit and to publish an assessment of unmet need, the



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response discusses the difficulties of doing this. **Can you confirm that the Government has rejected these recommendations?**

- Having rejected the Committee's recommendations to commission research to quantify the cost of inaction, **how confident is the Government that it can build a long-term case for reform amongst the public and politicians that ensures the success of any reform recommended by Baroness Casey, without such research?**
 - The response refers to the Department commissioning a range of research and data to inform its approach to reform. **Will the Department provide the Committee with an up-to-date list of the research it has commissioned relating to adult social care?**
- The response refers to reforms to local government finance and we note the Government's recently launched consultation on the Fair Funding Review 2.0. **Will the Department set out what impact it expects the proposed changes will have on local authorities' adult social care budgets?**
- The response commits to setting out the approach to the Better Care Fund for 2026 and beyond "in due course". **Can the Department provide a more specific deadline by which the Committee can expect to see this work completed?**
- The response states that the Government "agree[s] that publishing cost estimates broken down by delay reason would in principle improve transparency about the impact of delayed discharges" and commits to exploring how best to publish cost data, with the caveat that there are methodological- and assumptions-based challenges to doing so. **Can the Department commit to a timeframe within which it will explore this and provide a date by which it will inform the Committee of the outcome?**
- The Adult Social Care Fair Pay Agreement is often mentioned as an example of immediate action the Government is taking to reform adult social care, while the Casey Commission is ongoing. However, the response says the negotiating body will be established in 2026 and the first agreement will be established within this Parliament, which runs to 2029. **How long does the Department anticipate negotiations taking? Can the Department confirm whether this will be completed before phase 2 of the Casey Commission reports back, by 2028?**
- The Committee's report welcomed plans to establish the Adult Social Care Fair Pay Agreement and improve career pathways but also suggested the Government



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"needs to set out how these measures will be funded, as providers and local government cannot afford to fund them". **Can the Department provide a response on this point, confirming how any changes in pay would be funded and which part of the system will be ultimately responsible for meeting these costs?**

- We were interested to learn about the Ignite pilot, which is providing training to local commissioners and the upcoming evaluation of that. **Will the Department commit to writing to us to set out the findings from that evaluation and the impact it will have on outcomes-based commissioning for adult social care.**
 - **Can the Department confirm whether it will be encouraging local authorities to move away from task-based commissioning?**
 - The response also states that the Government is improving the quality of the underlying data sources to support commissioners, as well as taking steps to provide greater clarity on what 'good' outcomes look like. **Could the Department provide more detail on how exactly it is doing this, for example which data sources it is providing and how exactly it will provide greater clarity?**

We would be grateful for a response to our questions and request for further information by **22nd August**

Yours sincerely,

Paulette Hamilton MP
Acting Chair, Health and Social Care Committee