



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From Helen Whately MP  
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The Rt Hon. the Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top  
Chair of the Lords Public Services Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
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23 March 2021

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your report published 13 November 2020: "*A critical juncture for public services - lessons from COVID-19*".

I am writing to apologise for a drafting error which appeared in the Government's response to this report, published in February 2021. I can confirm that it remains the Government's intention to bring forward proposals for Adult Social Care in 2021. I have attached a corrected version of the response.

As described in our response, our country's adult social care system has never been under such pressure as over the last year. The Government's current priority is to ensure continuity of care services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking to the longer term, we want to 'build back better' and ensure that every person receives the care they need and that it is provided with the dignity they deserve. Recently, provisions relating to social care have been set out in the White paper regarding the Health and Care Bill, published in February 2021. These measures represent a crucial first step on the reform journey, and aim to embed improvements that have been made to the system as it has adapted to address needs arising from COVID-19.

These Bill measures would provide the foundations for the ambitious proposals for social care reforms that we will be bringing forwards later this year. Our objectives are to enable an affordable, high quality and sustainable adult social care system that meets people's

needs, whilst supporting health and care to join up services around people. I look forward to sharing more details of these reform plans later this year.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helen Whately', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**HELEN WHATELY**