

15th January 2026

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
Chair
Public Accounts Committee

Dear Sir Geoffery,

Further to my presentation as an independent expert to the session on the Financial Sustainability of the Hospice Sector, on 12th January 2026, may I ask for a note to be made that one item of evidence relates to unpublished data and yet to be confirmed? The relevant part of the transcript is:

Q6 Catherine McKinnell: Some of the data that you have collected is clearly very interesting, but there are gaps as well. We know that demand for hospice care in particular is increasing, as is palliative and end-of-life care. Do you have a clear idea of what that unmet need is currently?

Professor Murtagh: Yes. For a long time it has been said that one in four of those who need palliative care do not get it. Again, Marie Curie have funded some research, which I am working on with Katherine Sleeman, and that now tells us that **one in three*** of those who might be expected to need palliative care do not get it. And that is regardless of whether you ask the people themselves whether they have symptoms and issues that were not addressed, or whether you look at the access to services that they are not getting. And if you look through both lenses, it is **one in three*** of those who need it.

*The reason for requesting these two notes is that underpinning work is unpublished and yet to be fully verified.

Thank you for your assistance,

Best wishes



Fliss Murtagh

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