



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Stephen Kinnock MP
Minister of State for Care*

*39 Victoria Street
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5 March 2026

Layla Moran MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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Dear Layla,

Independent Commission on adult social care

I write to update you that this week, Baroness Louise Casey of Blackstock DBE CB spoke publicly about her progress so far on the Independent Commission on adult social care (the Commission) as she works towards her phase 1 report later this year. More details can be found here <https://caseycommission.co.uk/baroness-casey-calls-for-a-moment-of-reckoning-on-adult-social-care/>

Baroness Casey has also written to the Secretary of State outlining her recommendations for swift Government action in a small number of areas. The Secretary of State has responded to outline how Government will immediately act on her recommendations, and we look forward to continuing to support Baroness Casey as she delivers national and political consensus on what a sustainable National Care Service should look like in England.

We know that when social care works well it can be genuinely transformational, supporting people to live the lives they want. Across the country there are powerful examples of this in practice, but it is not yet the experience for everyone, and that is what we are determined to change. The issue of social care has been neglected by political parties of all affiliations for too long and we cannot afford to pass the buck any longer. The many good ideas from previous years have missed the broad consensus needed to find and secure solutions for what our country needs and wants from social care so that it stands the test of time.

That is why Baroness Casey has been appointed to this vital role to help lead us out of the cycle of political stalemate.

I am pleased to see Baroness Casey take the first steps to identifying critical issues facing the system and she has highlighted important areas for urgent consideration. Her remarks follow on from the Commission's extensive engagement across the country, putting the voices of people drawing on care and their families at the centre of the conversation and hearing from the wider sector and political parties.

It is important that the government move quickly to consider how we can improve in these areas.

That is why we have agreed to take forward the Commission's recommendations to immediately create a new National Safeguarding Board chaired by the Chief Social Worker, and to lead an urgent review of existing adult safeguarding statutory duties and powers testing whether the current framework provides sufficient clarity and leverage in high-risk situations.

On dementia, we agree with Baroness Casey's emphasis on the importance of clinical trials and that is why the Office for Life Sciences is already reviewing the merits of the ACCESS-AD initiative that Baroness Casey has specifically highlighted. The Secretary of State will also speak with Minister Vallance on dementia R&D to ensure that we are doing everything we can to maximise our collective opportunities as a government.

Baroness Casey has also given recognition to the importance of the first ever Dementia and Frailty Modern Service Framework, which will set a clear direction and a long-term blueprint to improve outcomes for people with dementia in both health and care settings. We are committed to publishing an interim report in September this year to feed into NHS and local government planning cycles and will look to expedite the publication of the full MSF to this calendar year, which will be informed by Baroness Casey's phase 1 report as set out in the 10 Year Health Plan.

I also absolutely accept the need for strong and meaningful leadership on such an important area. We will ensure there is a new dementia leadership role in the Department of Health and Social Care to drive forward action across the health and care system, and will consider how best to empower this role to provide the necessary leadership and accountability including drawing on lessons learned from the Cancer Tsar role as Baroness Casey suggests.

Baroness Casey also focused on people with motor neurone disease (MND) and recommended how we can go further as Government to support this particularly vulnerable cohort as quickly as possible after diagnosis. Where someone has a severe, reasonably predictable and life-limiting condition, it is essential that we provide rapid access to the support they need - and we will take forward immediate work to develop a safe fast-track process or "passport" that speeds up assessments and access to care for people diagnosed with MND.

As we explore these recommendations, we are delivering reforms that put the foundations of a national care service in place, and advance our three adult social care objectives of greater choice and control, joined-up services and higher quality of care. These reforms are backed by over £4.6 billion of additional funding available for adult social care in 2028–29 compared to 2025–26, and include the first Fair Pay Agreement for social care workers. Last month we also announced a 7% rise to the Minimum Income Guarantee for working age adults, £723m for the Disabled Facilities Grant next year, and an extra £50 uplift for the grant in 2025–26. Together, these reforms are already making a real difference to people's lives across the country, and we will continue to drive improvements as we wait for Phase 1 to be published.

Building on the Commission's early focus on engaging with people who draw on care and support, we look forward to Baroness Casey's plans for starting a much-needed national conversation on the future of adult social care. As we get more details, I am sure you will join me in ensuring your constituents take this once-in-a-generation opportunity to feed into this critical work. Their views are key to ensuring the Commission are successful in delivering reforms that best meets our country's needs. Baroness Casey has also written to political parties to schedule the next round of cross-party engagement.

I thank you for your continued interest and support for this Government's work so far, and Baroness Casey's Commission, as we develop a National Care Service and an adult social care system fit for the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Kinnock', written in a cursive style.

STEPHEN KINNOCK

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CARE