



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From Nadine Dorries MP  
Minister of State for Patient Safety,  
Suicide Prevention and Mental Health*

*39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU*

*020 7210 4850*

By email to: [hscocom@parliament.uk](mailto:hscocom@parliament.uk)

25th May 2021

Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your letter of 17 May 2021, inviting me to meet with the Committee's Expert Panel to discuss its evaluation of the Government's commitments in the area of maternity services in England.

I am glad the Department's written response was useful. My Officials have begun work to answer the questions you have listed in your recent correspondence and are aiming to respond to you by the agreed 10 June deadline.

As you know, maternity safety is a key priority for me. I am very supportive of the Health and Social Care Committee's work and welcome the scrutiny and accountability that comes with this. I therefore support the Department's continued work with this Panel, however, I believe ministerial engagement is best provided via appearances in front of the Committee itself, and therefore I must politely decline the Panel invite. My Officials would be pleased to meet with the Panel to discuss the preliminary findings of the evaluation and provide any final comments and reflections they may have. I look forward to reading the Panel's preliminary findings in due course, and remain grateful for your support on this important agenda.

Yours,

**NADINE DORRIES**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR PATIENT SAFETY, SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH**