



Health and Social Care Committee

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From Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP

Rt Hon Sajid Javid
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

17 March 2022

Dear Sajid,

Our Committee published a report entitled 'Children and young people's mental health' on 9 December 2021. The Department's response to our report was published today, 17 March 2022. This is more than a month later than the conventional two-month consideration time for a Government response to a Select Committee report, but we appreciate the Department keeping us informed of the delays and we acknowledge that the response to the Committee's report was held back at our request until the response to our Expert Panel's report was ready. We also understand the pressure the Department has been under since 9 December and were content to wait.

However, we were very concerned to note that, in response to almost half of the 25 recommendations we made, your Department stated that it was "considering" them. These recommendations pertained to urgent matters such as banning the use of prone restraint in all inpatient settings and in transit, and access to specialist mental health support for children and young people.

Having waited more than three months for a response, we do not think it is acceptable to be told that the Department is still considering our recommendations. We would like a clear indication of whether the Government intends to accept or reject the Committee's recommendations. In the 11 instances where the response states that the recommendation is being "considered", we look forward to a further response to inform us of the result of this consideration and whether the recommendation is ultimately accepted or rejected. In future responses to our reports, we would urge the Department to make it clear whether it is accepting or rejecting our recommendations.

I have copied in the Chair of the Liaison Committee, Sir Bernard Jenkin, and also written to him separately on the same matter.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Hunt MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee