



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

9 June 2022

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 14 March to the Chancellor of the Exchequer enclosing correspondence from your constituents about funding for dementia diagnosis and research. I am replying as the minister responsible for public spending and I am sorry for the delay.

Dementia is a devastating disease, and the Government is committed to ensuring that people with dementia can access world-leading health and social care when they need it.

That is why the Government has committed to investing an additional £5.4 billion over three years as part of wide-ranging reforms to the social care system.

This investment will support adult social care charging reform. Around half of all older adults in care receive some state support for their care costs under the current system. This rises to roughly two thirds under these reforms. The new £86,000 cap will end people's worry that they may face unpredictable care costs.

This funding will also provide unprecedented investment of at least £500 million in the adult social care workforce, to improve the training offer for carers and ensure social care is a rewarding career.

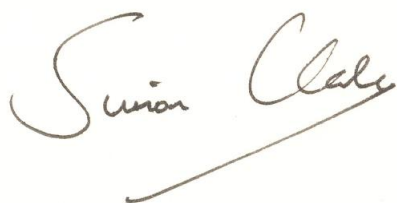
I am pleased to note the Government spent nearly £420 million on dementia research from 2015/16 to 2019/20, significantly ahead of our commitment to spend £300 million in this period, as set out in the 'Challenge on Dementia 2020'. This investment supported a range of dementia research, from understanding the causes of the disease to identifying new treatments and diagnostic tools.

At Spending Review 2021, the Government further demonstrated its ambition for scientific research, increasing public investment in research and development to £20 billion by 2024-25. This represents the highest ever level of public support for UK researchers, to facilitate their ongoing pursuit of the ground-breaking scientific and technological discoveries that the UK is known for. Specific research and development funding allocations will be finalised over the coming months.

Meanwhile, the Government has already been able to commit to investing at least £375 million in neurodegenerative disease research over the next five years to fund projects into a range of diseases including dementia. The National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR), which alone spent £29 million on dementia research in 2019/20, has launched a number of new initiatives to significantly boost research on dementia, including a research notice focused on meeting the needs of underserved communities and preventing dementia, a £9 million pot on digital biomarkers for early detection of dementia, and a £3.6 million pot for dementia and social care research.

Please pass on my thanks to your constituents for taking the trouble to make me aware of these concerns.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

RT HON SIMON CLARKE MP