



Department
of Health &
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The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
By email to: george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 May to Matt Hancock on behalf of a number of your constituents about the health and care bill.

The legislative measures in the Health and Care Bill White Paper are a critical first step in wider reform of the adult social care sector and the Bill introduces a number of measures to benefit social care.

One aim of the measures is to embed improvements that have been made to adult social care as it has adapted to address needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and to give greater ability to respond flexibly to the needs of the adult social care sector.

The Bill will include:

- measures to better join-up health and social care in new Integrated Care Systems;
- a new enhanced assurance framework to improve oversight of how social care is commissioned and delivered by local authorities;
- new powers to collect data from social care providers, to support our oversight of the sector;
- empowering local areas to follow the 'discharge to assess model'; and a new power for the Secretary of State to pay providers directly.

We recognise that these provisions are just part of the wider reforms needed for social care, and we will bring forward further proposals this year.

I hope this reply is helpful.

HELEN WHATELY