



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Neil O'Brien MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Social Care

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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 11 October to Thérèse Coffey on behalf of a number of your constituents, about Dementia diagnosis.

The Government remains absolutely committed to playing a significant role in global efforts against dementia. On 14 August, we launched the Dame Barbara Windsor Dementia Mission to boost the number of clinical trials and innovative research projects, supported by £95million. The Mission is part of the commitment to double dementia research funding by 2024/25, to £160million a year.

We know we need to go further on all aspects of dementia research so that we can make more progress with preventing and treating the condition.

The Challenge on Dementia 2020 target was for two-thirds of people living with dementia in England to receive a formal diagnosis. The target had been met consistently from July 2016 until the end of March 2020. The diagnosis rate has dropped below the national ambition for the first time in almost four years, reflecting the impact of the pandemic on memory assessment services and GP referrals to those services.

NHS England continues to monitor the diagnosis rate each month and provide analysis on trends, by region and by sustainability and transformation partnership, to aid targeted recovery efforts. Work to improve dementia diagnosis rates will continue throughout 2022/23. The latest dementia diagnosis rate figures reported by NHS Digital are for August 2022, when it was 62.1 per cent. The most up-to-date figures are available at <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/recorded-dementia-diagnoses>.

In 2021/22, the Government allocated £17million to NHS England to reduce dementia waiting lists and increase the number of diagnoses. This funding was made available to local commissioners in June 2021.

To further support recovery of the dementia diagnosis rate and access to post-diagnostic support, NHS England will provide funding for an evidence-based improvement project in 2022/23. It will fund two trusts in each region (fourteen in total) to pilot the Diagnosing Advanced Dementia Mandate tool to improve diagnosis in care homes.

We continue with work to develop our long-term plans for dementia.

I hope this reply is helpful.

NEIL O'BRIEN