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**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

18th July 219

Dear Colleague

**Re: Carers Innovation Fund**

As well as making an invaluable difference to the friends, family and loves ones that they support, carers are vital partners in the continued functioning of our health and social care system. However, carers’ own health and wellbeing often gets neglected as they focus on other people’s needs to the detriment of their own. They also experience challenges in balancing employment or education with their caring responsibilities.

We are committed to finding new ways to support carers and I was, therefore, delighted to launch our pioneering Carers Innovation Fund during Carers’ Week in June. This £5million investment will help build our understanding of the kinds of support that work for carers, outside of traditional healthcare services. From community-based schemes that help to bring carers together to innovative forms of technology that help carers to be able to take a break, we want to unlock the benefits of range of exciting projects.

I need your help to raise awareness of this exciting opportunity and to encourage organisations to apply. We are seeking to attract applications from a range of sectors. Voluntary sector organisations, small and medium enterprises and commercial organisations can all bid for seed-funding to prove their concept and build the case for sustained funding from other sources.

Information about the Fund and the application process is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carers-innovation-fund-how-to-apply>. As a first step, organisations are being invited to submit their initial proposals by 13th September.

I believe that the Fund will really drive support for carers at a local level to give them access to the they help that they need to support them in their caring role.

Yours sincerely



**Caroline Dinenage MP**

**Minister of State for Care**