



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

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*To all MPs and Peers*

6 March 2020

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to you today to begin the process of seeking to build a cross-party consensus on social care.

Since 1997, successive governments have tried and failed to find a long-term solution to funding social care. It is right that people and families take responsibility for planning for their future, and make some contribution to the costs of care. But we need to get that balance right. Too many people are now hit by unpredictably large costs that are hard to plan for; and left with little wealth despite a lifetime of hard work and saving.

That is why we have committed as a Government to seeking views from across the political spectrum. We need to address the injustices within the system and find a balance between people continuing to contribute to their care without having to face catastrophic costs. We do not need another commission – we need action now, finally, to seek a solution that can support future generations.

As we set out in our manifesto, we will seek to build cross-party consensus so that the reforms we progress will last long into the future, nobody is forced to sell their home to pay for care, and everybody accessing care has safety and security. Of course, any solution needs to consider the financial impact on taxpayers as a whole, the competing demands on taxpayers' money from other public services, and how to fund reform on a sustainable basis.

We know that this will not be easy. The number of reports that have been published in recent years with different suggested approaches shows how difficult it is to reach agreement on the best way to reform the social care system. Nevertheless, we know that there are colleagues from all sides of both Houses who are keen to work together to address the issues in the current system and find a solution for once and for all.

We want to hear your views, your proposed solutions and your concerns about reforming the way that people pay for their care as part of the cross party talks, I

am now initiating. In the first phase of the process, both I and the Minister for Social Care would be delighted to hear from all colleagues and peers with views on how to progress this crucial agenda. We then intend to move to a second phase of structured talks on reform options in May.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

**MATT HANCOCK**