



Department
of Health

*From Norman Lamb MP
Minister of State for Care and Support*

Your Ref: ML.N0031.AR.14.01.14

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Caroline Lucas MP
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23 JAN 2014

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter of 14 January on behalf of a number of your constituents about research into dementia.

I can assure your constituents that the Government takes the need to continue to support dementia research seriously. This is shown by the Coalition Government's challenge on dementia, which announced that the combined value of the Department of Health's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), Medical Research Council and Economic and Social Research Council funding for research into dementia will increase from £26.6million in 2009/10 to an estimated £66.3million in 2014/15.

The Government is encouraging more companies to carry out their research, including research into dementia, in the UK. This would enable more people in this country to participate in and benefit from research.

Through the NIHR, we are striving to make it faster and easier to get research underway in the NHS. To achieve this, the NIHR is working with partners, including the Health Research Authority, to simplify and streamline the administrative and regulatory procedures governing research studies.

The NIHR also continues to welcome funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including dementia. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

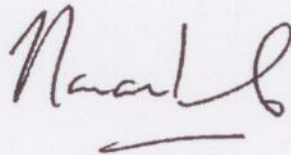
More generally, your constituents may have seen coverage of the G8 dementia summit on 11 December, which took place under the UK's Presidency of the G8.

As you know, the summit declaration, which was signed by all G8 countries, calls for:

- a commitment to trying to identify a cure or condition-modifying therapy for dementia by 2025;
- countries to work together and share information in a transparent way;
- an increase in funding for research; and
- a series of events during 2014, in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Health Organization, the European Commission and the EU Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative Disease, to develop cross-sector partnerships.

I hope this reassures your constituents of the UK's commitment to encouraging research into, and identifying treatments for, dementia.

I hope this reply is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Lamb', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

NORMAN LAMB

Approved by the Minister and signed electronically to avoid delay