



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London, SW1A 2NS

12th July 2017

Dear Jeremy

I am writing to ask you to clarify the status of the Carers Strategy and to confirm whether it is still the Government's intention to publish the Strategy and if so, when.

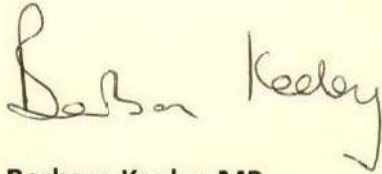
It is now almost one year since the consultation on proposals to support carers closed. In June 2016 the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, Lord Prior of Brampton, confirmed the Government's commitment to publish the Strategy by the end of 2016. In response to a Parliamentary Question (no. 66131) on 7th March, the former Care Minister said the Strategy would be published in the Spring this year and on 8th March the Education Minister confirmed that the Strategy is "*due to be published by Summer 2017*" (Parliamentary Question no. 66283).

This week I received a response to a Parliamentary Question I tabled (no. 2923) asking again when the Strategy would be published. This response not only failed to make clear when the Strategy would be forthcoming, but implied you now have no plans to publish the Strategy at all.

According to research published this week by Carers UK, one in four unpaid carers have not had a day off in five years and 40 per cent of carers have not had a day off in a year. This research lays bare the mental, physical and financial impact of caring on family members and sets out why it is so important the Government takes urgent and practical action to support carers.

I would be grateful if you could confirm whether you still intend to publish the Carers Strategy and, if so, when it will be forthcoming. If you are no longer planning on publishing the Strategy, will the forthcoming social care Green Paper include specific proposals to support unpaid carers?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Keeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a checkmark at the end.

Barbara Keeley MP

Member of Parliament for Worsley and Eccles South

Shadow Cabinet Member for Social Care and Mental Health



Department
of Health

From Jackie Doyle-Price MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care and Mental Health

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Barbara Keeley MP
By email to: alastairb.clow@parliament.uk

14 AUG 2017

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 July to Jeremy Hunt about the Carers' Strategy and social care.

I would like to assure you that the Department of Health remains committed to supporting carers to provide care as they would wish, and to do so in a way that minimises any detrimental impact on their own health and wellbeing, employment and other life chances.

The ageing population presents one of our nation's most profound challenges. It raises critical questions as to how as a society we enable everyone to live well into later life and how we deliver sustainable services that support them to do so. As you will be aware, the recent Queen's Speech announced proposals to bring forward a public consultation on social care. The Government is committed to listening to people's views on how to reform the social care system, to ensure it is sustainable for current and future generations and that the quality of care improves. In view of this, it now makes sense for us to take stock and consider how best to make sure that our work on carers and the wider work on social care for older people complement each other.

The Government will want to hear a wide range of views and to work with partners at all levels, including those who use services and who work to provide care, as part of the forthcoming social care consultation. Further announcements on the timing and the scope for the consultation will be made in due course. Decisions on the next steps on work to support carers will be considered as part of this wider work.

I can also assure you that the rich range of responses we received through our call for evidence on carers last year has played a key role in shaping the Department's

thinking on carers and will continue to inform our work in this area, as well as feeding into the consultation.

I hope this reply is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Doyle-Price'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long tail extending to the right.

JACKIE DOYLE-PRICE