



**Chris Heaton-Harris**  
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*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about support for people with motor neurone disease (MND).

I can assure you that ensuring early diagnosis and support for those living with MND remains a key priority of the NHS.

Knowing early diagnosis is key to treating the symptoms of the disease, I was pleased to see the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published new guidelines for clinicians on the assessment and management of MND. These set out the signs and symptoms of the disease and recommend that patients suspected of having MND should be referred without delay. The Royal College of GPs and the MND Association have also worked together to produce a 'Red Flag Tool' which sets out key signs of MND to help GPs to identify suspected cases and ensure prompt referral.

I also understand the valuable contribution made by carers of people with MND, many of whom spend a significant proportion of their own life providing support to family members, friends or neighbours. I agree that carers must receive the right support to help them carry out their caring roles and a new cross-Government National Carers Strategy is being introduced to look at what more can be done to support existing and future carers.

Nearly £288 million has been spent on research into neurological conditions, including MND, since 2010 through the publicly-funded National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). With the NIHR's annual spending on neurological conditions up by more than £22 million since 2010, I hope this funding will discover new ways to improve the lives of those diagnosed with MND.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**