



**Chris Heaton-Harris**  
Member of Parliament for Daventry  
House of Commons, London SW1A  
0AA  
Tel: 020 7219 7048

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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about dementia care.

I believe increasing public awareness and understanding of dementia among the wider public is vital to ensure that people are supported to live well with the condition, and I am encouraged that there are now over 3 million Dementia Friends.

Research is crucial to understanding and tackling dementia. In 2017, the Government launched the UK Dementia Research Institute, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research UK, with £290m funding, the single biggest investment ever made in the UK in this field.

Under the Challenge on Dementia 2020 strategy, the Government's commitment to spend over £300m on dementia research between 2015 and 2020 was met a year early, with £341m being spent by March 2019 through the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the Department of Health and Social Care.

The Government is also supporting the £79 million Accelerating Detection of Disease challenge, a project bringing together the NHS, industry and leading charities to support research into the early diagnosis of disease, including dementia.

By the end of 2020, all relevant staff were scheduled to have received appropriate dementia training, including training relevant staff to be able to signpost interested individuals towards research via the Join Dementia Research Service. I understand that good progress has been made against this goal, and more options are currently being explored to increase take-up of more advanced training among those who need it.

The Prime Minister recently announced the Government's intention to provide the NHS with an additional £33.9 billion by 2023/24; this is the largest, longest funding settlement in the history of the NHS. This landmark settlement investment to help secure the long term future of our NHS is extremely welcome and it demonstrates the Government's commitment to properly funding our NHS and public services. As part of this, there is a commitment to improving detection, with more targeted screening and Rapid Access Diagnostic Centres, so that in 10 years' time these measures will help achieve 55,000 more people surviving cancer each year, and 100,000 heart attacks, strokes and dementia cases being prevented.

The Government is integrating and improving health and social care to protect people at every stage of their lives. In the manifesto on which I was proud to stand it was made clear that we must build the same level of consensus on social care that we have already built on the NHS, across



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political parties, so that an answer can be brought forward that solves the problem, commands the widest possible support, and stands the test of time. I stand by this commitment and urge my colleagues and constituents of all political beliefs to take part in a conversation about establishing a care system fit for the 21st century.

The Government remains strongly committed to research to combat dementia and will shortly lay out plans for supporting people with dementia in England up to 2025. Sadly, I understand that the mobilisation of the health research system against COVID-19 will have an impact on the speed with which the Dementia Moonshot plans can be implemented. However, I will work with my colleagues in the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure that the manifesto commitment to double research funding to over £160m each year by 2030 is delivered as swiftly as is possible.

Improving peoples brain health is extremely important, which is why I firmly support work being done by the Alzheimer's Society on brain training. The coronavirus pandemic has had an impact in so many ways, and that prolonged isolation, particularly for older people and those who are not working, can have an impact on brain function. While I know that playing brain games may not prevent dementia, it has been shown that regularly challenging yourself mentally seems to build up the brain's ability to cope with disease.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

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