



Department
of Health

From the Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
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The Rt Hon Fiona Mactaggart MP
By email to: mactaggartf@parliament.uk

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Thank you for your letter of 24 February on behalf of one of your constituents about mental health services.

I appreciate your constituent's concerns about timely access to appropriate mental health services. We believe that the Mental Health Taskforce marks a big step towards our ambition of parity of esteem for mental and physical health.

We welcome the Taskforce's recommendations and have committed to making them a reality by the end of this Parliament. These recommendations include:

- supporting over one million more people with their mental health every year;
- increasing the number of people receiving Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services by nearly 75 per cent, from 468,000 to 800,000; and
- more than tripling the number of pregnant women or new mothers receiving mental health support (12,000 to 42,000).

NHS England is collaborating with external stakeholders to develop an internal and external governance structure for implementing these recommendations.

We want to ensure that people facing a mental health crisis will be able to access care seven days a week, 24 hours a day. We are allocating an additional £25million to reduce suicides by at least ten per cent – another step towards our zero suicide ambition.

We are also investing in the mental health workforce and are supporting 5,000 more mental health professionals in children and young people's IAPT. We will train around 1,700 new therapists and double the number of employment support advisers in IAPT services.

To achieve this, we are investing more in mental health than ever before, and will spend £1 billion more per year on mental health by 2020/21.

I hope this reply is helpful.

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Alistair

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