



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Gillian Keegan MP
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Iain Stewart MP

By email to: iain.stewart.mp@parliament.uk

16 January 2022

Dear Iain,

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 October on behalf of a number of your constituents, about the impact of COVID-19 on disabled people. I apologise for the delay in replying.

We recognise the considerable impact that COVID-19 has had on disabled people's quality of life and are fully committed to ensuring they have the support they need during the pandemic and beyond. During 2020/21, we allocated £3.6million to voluntary and community sector organisations to support autistic people, people with a learning disability and disabled people.

We continue to carefully consider the risks and impacts that disabled people face as a result of the pandemic, and we will continue to put in place the necessary steps to protect and support them. Our long-term vision is to transform disabled people's lives for the better, and the National Disability Strategy published on 28 July aims to improve disabled people's everyday lives. The strategy offers a positive vision for long-term societal change and a wide-ranging, practical plan for action now. Your constituents can find more information on the strategy on gov.uk by searching for 'National Disability Strategy'.

More broadly, we are embarking on the first Women's Health Strategy for England. The strategy will set an ambitious and positive new agenda to improve the health and wellbeing of women across England. The Women's Health Strategy Call for Evidence was launched earlier this year to gather women's experiences and views regarding their health and care, including long term-conditions and disabilities. We received nearly 100,000 responses and over 400 written submissions from organisations, researchers and academics. Following detailed analysis of the responses, we will respond to the Call for Evidence and will publish our vision for the Women's Health Strategy.

I hope this reply is helpful.

GILLIAN KEEGAN