



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister of State for Care

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Teresa Pearce MP
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07 October 2019

Dear Teresa,

Thank you for raising the importance of good quality housing at PMQs last week. I believe it is vital to highlight the important links between housing, health and care. I have been asked to reply.

We know that living in a home that sustains safe, independent living can help to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital, speed up transfers out of hospital back home, and delay or even completely avoid the need to move into residential care. It can also reduce calls on GPs and allied health professionals.

The NHS Long-term Plan emphasises an increased shift to primary and community care and better homes can undoubtedly play a key role in keeping people well and independent at home, to be cared for in their community, for longer.

The £1.4 billion annual cost of poor housing to the NHS in England is from a Building Research Establishment paper and remains the most up-to-date and widely used estimate. The most significant housing hazards are excess cold and falls, which is why improving existing stock and ensuring that new builds are well-designed is so important.

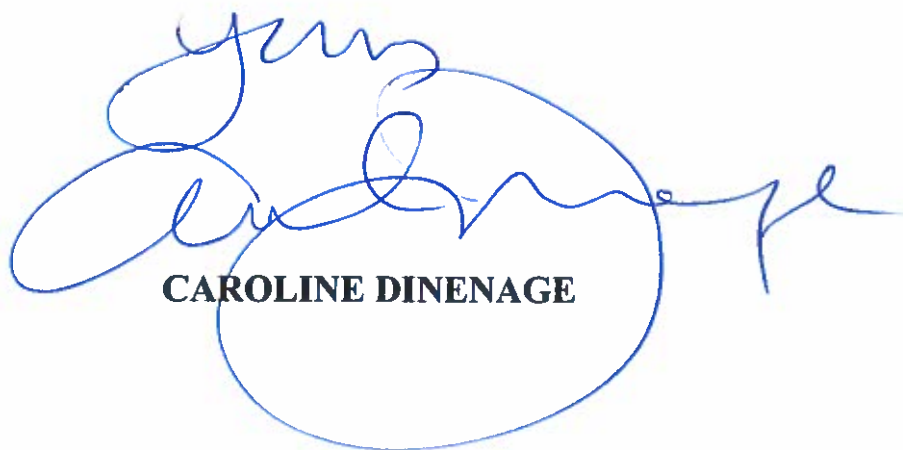
To support people to live independently in their homes for longer, the Department funds the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) to help older and disabled people on low-incomes to adapt their homes to make them suitable for their needs. Funding has more than doubled from £220 million in 2015-16 to £505 million in 2019-20. An independent review of the DFG was published in December 2018. Together with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, we are carefully considering the findings and will be responding in due course.

We also provide funding to build specialised housing - through the Care and Support Specialised Housing (CASSH) Fund - for older people and adults with learning and physical disabilities, and mental ill health. Up to £76 million is available for the CASSH schemes this year.

In terms of new mainstream homes, Government will be launching the 'Home of 2030' design and delivery competition later this year. The competition will seek to encourage the combination of innovative construction with new technology to create more energy efficient, accessible and adaptable homes designed to fit the needs of all generations.

I will also place a copy of this letter in the House library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Dinénage', is written over a large, light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

CAROLINE DINENAGE