



Department of Health & Social Care

*From Baroness Merron
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State*

*39 Victoria Street
London
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23 July 2026

My Lords,

Thank you for your contributions to the debate on the Modern Service Framework for Frailty and Dementia on 9 July 2026. During the debate, several points were raised on which I undertook to provide further detail.

Co-design and publication timetable

The Frailty and Dementia Modern Service Framework is being developed with support from a Task and Finish Group comprising representatives from across the health and care system, which meets monthly. We intend to inform NHS and local government planning cycles this September and aim to publish the full Framework by the end of this calendar year.

Research, innovation and clinical trials

The Government continues to support dementia and frailty research through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and UK Research and Innovation. This includes research into prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, alongside investment in innovations such as the Electronic Frailty Index 2 and the ENHANCE dementia prevention programme.

We have adopted a target of increasing participation in UK dementia clinical trials to 2,000 people within the next five years. Through the Dame Barbara Windsor Dementia Goals programme and wider investment in dementia research, we are working to strengthen the UK's ability to attract and deliver clinical trials and accelerate access to new treatments.

NICE and the impact on carers

NICE's evaluations take account of all health-related costs and benefits, including where relevant evidence is available. However, NICE does not routinely include wider economic impacts, such as carers' productivity, because the methodologies for doing so remain less developed and raise significant ethical and methodological considerations.

Women and dementia research

Since 2024, equity, diversity and inclusion have been a condition of NIHR funding. This includes ensuring appropriate representation within research studies and clinical trials. Our renewed Women's Health Strategy also includes a commitment to support the development and adoption of new treatments for dementia and to strengthen the evidence base on conditions affecting women.

Data and diagnosis variation

To help reduce regional variation in diagnosis rates, NHS England has developed tools and dashboards that enable local systems to identify areas of lower performance, understand population characteristics and target support more effectively.

I hope this information is helpful. I will place a copy of this letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

All good wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gillian", with a stylized flourish underneath.

BARONESS MERRON