



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From Helen Whately MP  
Minister of State for Care*

*39 Victoria Street  
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Your Ref: EC5039

PO-1247384

Elliot Colburn MP

By email to: [elliot.colburn.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:elliot.colburn.mp@parliament.uk)

28 August 2020

Dear Elliot,

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 July to Rishi Sunak on behalf of a number of your constituents about social care.

Because of the unprecedented situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic, I am not able to reply to every individual letter personally.

This is not what I would wish; however, in order to prevent delay to you, I have asked the Department's Head of Correspondence to reply on my behalf and her reply is enclosed.

I hope Ms Turner's reply is helpful.

Kind regards,

**HELEN WHATELY**



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From Marie Turner  
Head of Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

020 7210 4850

Your Ref: EC5039

PO-1247384

Elliot Colburn MP

By email to: [elliott.colburn.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:elliott.colburn.mp@parliament.uk)

28 August 2020

Dear Mr Colburn,

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 July to Rishi Sunak on behalf of a number of your constituents, about social care. Your email has been transferred to this Department and I have been asked to reply.

Improving the care and support that it offers people living with dementia remains a priority for the Government. It has been delivering the Challenge on Dementia 2020 to make England the best country in the world for providing dementia care.

Implementation of the Challenge is being overseen by the Dementia Programme Board, which I [MS(C)] chair. The National Dementia Action Alliance (NDAA) has recently become a member of the Board and joins other voluntary and public sector organisations to oversee the current and future dementia programme.

Under the Care Act 2014, charging for social care is based on a number of principles, including that people should not be charged more than it is reasonably practicable for them to pay. Charging approaches should be clear, transparent and comprehensive so people know what they will be charged for. Local authorities must follow the Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) 2014 Regulations (the Regulations) and have regard to the Care and Support Statutory (CASS) Guidance.

Whether or not a person qualifies for any financial support towards their care costs depends on their capital assets, as follows:

- anyone who has above the upper capital limit of £23,250 is expected to meet the full cost of their care;
- anyone who has below the lower capital limit of £14,250 pays what they can afford from income only; and
- anyone with assets between the upper and lower limits pays what they can afford from income plus a contribution from assets.

A means-tested contribution from assets is determined by tariff income, which assumes a person can afford to pay £1 per week for every £250 of assets between the limits.

Under Schedule 2 (Capital to be disregarded) to the Charging regulations, amongst other things, the value of the care home resident's former home is disregarded from the financial

assessment for the first 12 weeks of local authority supported residential care. It continues to be disregarded if the property is lived in by, for example, the resident's partner, a relative who is over 60 or incapacitated, or a child of the resident who is under 18.

Local authorities also have the discretion to disregard the value of the property in any other circumstances that they consider reasonable.

All forms of capital, including a person's former home, will be looked at in the financial assessment. Where a person is a joint beneficial owner of a property, it is the cared-for adult's interest which is valued in the financial assessment for charging. That said, not in all circumstances will the property be taken into account in the financial assessment. For example, the property is disregarded:

- if it is occupied by the resident's spouse or partner, another relative who is 60 or incapacitated or a relative who is under 18 whom the resident is liable to maintain;
- for the first 12 weeks of a permanent move into a care home; and
- when the individual is still living in their home and receiving domiciliary care.

The Government's number one priority for adult social care is for everyone who relies on care to get the care they need throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Putting social care on a sustainable footing, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, is one of the biggest challenges we face as a society. There are complex questions to address and it is important that the Department gives these issues its full consideration in the light of current circumstances and bring forward a long-term plan for social care.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Turner', written in a cursive style.

**MARIE TURNER**