



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Damian Eaton
CSS Manager (Legal & Democratic Services)
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Democratic Services
Town Hall
Stockport
SK1 3XE

Date: 22nd July 2015
Our ref: 9381/Jul15

Dear Damian

Thank you for your letter relating to Opposition to Government Health Cuts.

I agree fully and have written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding points (i) and (ii) in your correspondence.

As soon as I receive a response I will come back to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Gwynne", written over a horizontal line.

ANDREW GWYNNE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Damian Eaton
CSS Manager (Legal & Democratic Services)
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Democratic Services
Town Hall
STOCKPORT
SK1 3XE

Our ref: 9381/Jul15
Date: 4th September 2015

Dear Damian

Further to our previous correspondence, concerning cuts to the health budget, please find enclosed for information a copy of the reply I have received on behalf of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne.

Yours sincerely

ANDREW GWYNNE MP

Enc



Department
of Health

Your Ref: 9381/Jul15

PO00000950680

Andrew Gwynne MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

From Jane Ellison MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 4850

11 AUG 2015

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 22 July to George Osborne about proposed reductions in the local authority public health grant for 2015/16. Your letter was passed to the Department of Health.

I fully understand the concerns of Stockport Council which reflect the enthusiasm with which local authorities have embraced the public health duties that they were given in 2013. I would like to assure it that prevention and public health remains a priority for this Government. However, it is vital to the long-term health of our economy and the sustainability of public services that we reduce the deficit, and this means that difficult decisions need to be taken right across government.

Even with the £200million savings, we will still have invested £8.5billion through the public health grant over three years. Further, taking into account wider prevention spending such as vaccination and screening programmes, we are investing over £5.5billion in public health and prevention this year. As well as these savings to the public health grant, the NHS needs efficiency savings of £22billion by 2020/21, as set out in the NHS *Five Year Forward View*.

We will be consulting shortly on how we should share the £200million saving fairly across all authorities, and how we can support authorities in implementing the savings in ways that minimise any impact on services.

The Government remains strongly committed to improving the long-term public health of the nation, and we will complement the local efforts of councils and the NHS with national policy action where this is warranted. The Government is committed to addressing childhood obesity, and we are formulating our plans for

this. In addition, we will roll out the first national evidence-based programme for diabetes prevention, potentially avoiding huge care costs in the years to come.

The Government is committed to make at least £8billion of extra funding available to the NHS by 2020/21, and we will need to consider carefully how to use the additional funding to best effect, recognising the important role prevention plays in meeting the efficiency challenge set out in the *Five Year Forward View*.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kind regards

Jane

JANE ELLISON



Home Office

Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 7035 4848
Fax: 020 7035 4745
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Mr Damian Eaton
CSS Manager (Legal & Democratic Services)
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Town Hall, Stockport
SK1 3XE

Reference: T12934/15

Your Reference: DE

Dear Mr Eaton,

Thank you for your letter of 14 July 2015 about psychoactive substances. Your letter has been passed to me to respond as an official in the Drugs and Alcohol Unit in the Home Office.

I am pleased to inform you that the government will address the harms of so-called 'legal highs', or psychoactive substances through the Psychoactive Substances Bill.

This follows the advice of an Expert Panel, which was commissioned in 2014 by the Home Office to consider how domestic legislation could be strengthened to tackle the growth of psychoactive substances in the UK. They considered a range of alternatives and recommended the creation of a blanket ban on the production and distribution of psychoactive substances. The Psychoactive Substances Bill, introduced by the Government at the start of this Parliament gives effect to this recommendation.

The Bill will create criminal offences to cover the supply of psychoactive substances in the UK. This Bill will complement and work alongside our existing Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It does not contain a possession offence, only possession with intent to supply. This is a proportionate approach, reflecting that these substances have not had their harms fully assessed.

It will also give police and other enforcement agencies a range of powers including powers to seize and destroy psychoactive substances, search persons, premises and vehicles and enter premises by warrant where necessary and different sanctions to enable a graded response.

The Bill has passed through the House of Lords and will be debated by the House of Commons shortly. Without pre-empting the will of Parliament, we hope the Bill will receive

Royal Assent later this year and will be implemented next spring. The Bill is designed to tackle the kinds of issues that the council has raised and remove open markets of these substances from our communities.

The Local Government Association has been closely involved in the development of the Bill and has been specifically consulted on a number of aspects of the proposed legislation. The LGA is taking an active role in the implementation of the Bill, including through a cross departmental working group.

In the meantime, the Council may be interested in the action taken by councils such as in Belfast, Lincoln and Lambeth, prompted by the concerns about the open availability these substances in their communities. Following government guidance issued in March, they are using consumer protection and Anti-Social Behaviour legislation to disrupt the supply of new psychoactive substances and associated anti-social behaviour locally. This guidance is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/action-against-head-shops>. However these powers were designed for a very different purpose and the Psychoactive Substances Bill will provide police and others with a clearer, bespoke legal framework to tackle this problem.

If there is anything else you would like to talk through regarding the Bill, please contact me on 0207 035 1885.

Yours sincerely

James McLellan

Email: Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk



Department
of Health

Your Ref: DE

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 4850

TO00000959689

Mr Damian Eaton
CSS Manager
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Town Hall
Stockport SK1 3XE

05 OCT 2015

Dear Mr Eaton,

Thank you for your letter of 14 July to George Osborne about the local authority public health grant. As the matter you raise relates to healthcare funding, it has been passed to the Department of Health and I have been asked to reply. I apologise for the delay in doing so.

I appreciate your concerns about the £200million in-year reduction announced by the Chancellor.

Prevention and public health remains a priority for this Government. However, it is vital to the long-term health of the UK economy and the sustainability of public services that the deficit is reduced, and this means that difficult decisions need to be taken right across the Government. The £3billion cut represents a significant step toward the further consolidation required over the current parliament and the Government appreciates the challenges presented for local authorities.

The Government also appreciates that local authorities have enthusiastically welcomed and embraced the prevention agenda and believe that this has benefitted the health of people across England. Local authorities have done outstanding work in demonstrating how much can be done for less. The Government believes that local authorities are able to provide best value for the taxpayer as they are best placed to assess local needs, prioritise and deploy resources accordingly.

Even with the £200million savings, the Government will still have invested £8.5billion through the public health grant over three years. Further, taking into account wider prevention spending such as vaccination and screening programmes, over £5.5billion will be invested in public health and prevention this year. As well as these savings to the public health grant, the NHS needs efficiency savings of £22billion by 2020/21, as set out in the NHS' *Five Year Forward View*.

A consultation was held between 31 July and 28 August on how the Government should share the £200million saving fairly across all authorities, and how it can support authorities in implementing the savings in ways that minimise any impact on services. These responses are now being considered.

The Government remains strongly committed to improving the long-term public health of the nation, and it will complement the local efforts of councils and the NHS with national policy action where this is warranted. The Government is committed to addressing childhood obesity, and is formulating plans for this. In addition, it will roll out the first national evidence-based programme for diabetes prevention, potentially avoiding huge care costs in the years to come.

The Government is committed to make at least £8billion of extra funding available to the NHS by 2020/21, and it will need to consider carefully how to use the additional funding to best effect, recognising the important role prevention plays in meeting the efficiency challenge set out in the *Five Year Forward View*.

The Department undertook a consultation exercise to gather the views of local authorities and stakeholders from the health and social care system on how to apply savings in-year. Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council responded to this consultation and that response is currently being analysed along with the other responses received. The Department will consider the impact on health inequalities as a result of the savings, amongst other factors that come to light from the consultation exercise.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sherifa Rahman', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sherifa Rahman
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries



Department
of Health

Your Ref: DE

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 4850

TO00000959689

Mr Damian Eaton
CSS Manager
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Legal and Democratic Services
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Sherifa Rahman
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries



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Department
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House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

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JANE ELLISON

Minute Item 8.(i)



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Damian Eaton
CSS Manager (Legal & Democratic Services)
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Democratic Services
Town Hall
Stockport
SK1 3XE

Date: 21st July 2015
Our ref: 9380/Jul15

Dear Damian

Thank you for your letter relating to extending votes in all elections and referendums to 16 and 17 year olds.

I agree fully and have consistently always voted for a lower franchise and will continue to do so.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Gwynne", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

ANDREW GWYNNE MP

Constituency Office 0161 320 1504-Fax 0161 320 1503
Email: gwynnea@parliament.uk
House of Commons: 0207 219 4708 (voicemail)
www.andrewgwynne.co.uk



Home Office

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www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Mr Damian Eaton
CSS Manager (Legal & Democratic Services)
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Town Hall, Stockport
SK1 3XE

Reference: T12934/15

Your Reference: DE

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