

CLAIRE PERRY MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr John Craig
12A Gaisford Chase
Worton
Devizes
SN10 5RX

Working for the Devizes Constituency

Ref: tpa

24 February 2017

Dear Mr Craig and the Wiltshire Retired Firefighters Association,

Thank you very much for your letter about caring for the elderly. I appreciate you and members of the Wiltshire Retired Firefighters Association taking the time to contact me on this important issue.

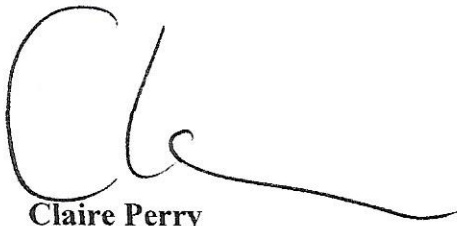
I strongly believe that it is important to ensure that as people get older they are able to receive the dignified care they deserve. Therefore I support my Government's commitment to making sure this is a country that works for everyone and that the most vulnerable in society can access the support they need.

I know that the Government recognises the current pressures facing local areas. That is why the Government is giving local authorities additional funding and flexibility so that they will have access to an additional £3.5 billion by 2020, providing a real terms increase in funding by the end of this Parliament. On 15 December, the Government announced greater flexibility over the use of the council tax social care precept, so that local authorities can choose to raise extra money. Indeed, savings from the New Homes Bonus, totalling £240 million, will be retained by councils for social care. Taken together, this means almost an additional £900 million will be made available over the next two years.

However, I recognise that money alone will not fix the problem, and the Government is clear that far-reaching reform is needed to encourage high standards across the whole country. Some councils are already providing high quality social care within their existing budgets, showing that reform can be achieved and half of all delayed discharges from hospital to home arise in just 24 local authorities. The Communities Secretary, Health Secretary and others across Government will work to ensure that long-term we have a sustainable system of social care for everyone that needs it.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me. I hope this information has reassured you and your members, and if there is ever anything else that you would like to raise, or if there is anything else that I can help with, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a smaller 'P' and a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Claire Perry
MP for the Devizes Constituency