



**Department for
Communities and
Local Government**

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Our Ref: 3050097

06 FEB 2017

Dear Councillor Houghton

Thank you for your letter of 9 December to the Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, on behalf of the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA) about social care services. I am replying as this falls within my ministerial responsibilities.

I am very aware of the pressures on adult social care and the impact this has on overall council budgets. I know that you and your colleagues have worked hard to find efficiencies and deal with these pressures. I also know that we have a lot more to do to ensure that the NHS and local authorities provide a seamless and joined up service to vulnerable people.

The Department does recognise the arguments for extra funding, and the risk of impacts on the health service. However, public finances are still tight, and the government has to make difficult decisions about funding. In recognition of the particular pressures on adult social care services in 2017/18 you will have heard the action we have taken within the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement:

- Using £240million in savings on New Homes Bonus to benefit authorities with adult social care responsibilities - provided through a new 2017/18 Adult Social Care Support grant and;
- Providing additional flexibility to bring forward council tax rises which could raise an extra £208 million for adult social care in 2017/18 and £444 million in 2018/19.

Whilst I appreciate this might not go as far as you and SIGOMA would wish, I hope you see that this matter is not one we take lightly. Our responsibility for ensuring adequate and sustainable funding for adult social care now and into the future is one of utmost concern to me and my Ministerial colleagues.

*Yours,
Marcus*

MARCUS JONES MP