



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sir Andrew Dillon
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
10 Spring Gardens
London
SW1A 28U

5th September 2019

Dear Sir Andrew,

Re: NICE guideline on the Recognition and Management of Depression in Adults

As you are aware, a coalition of highly-respected individuals and organisations within the mental health sector have highlighted a number of fundamental methodological issues with the current draft NICE Guideline on the Recognition and Management of Depression in Adults as detailed in the attached briefing.

We appreciate that the guideline draft will now be revised a third time and we understand that you recently convened a second meeting with the stakeholder group, chaired by an independent methodologist, to explore and discuss their concerns. Following this meeting, NICE agreed to “look again at the issues raised by the stakeholders”.

As stressed previously, we do acknowledge that there is a range of opinion on some of the issues the group is raising. However, we believe that the strong opposition to the proposed changes from such a wide-ranging and growing stakeholder coalition should be taken seriously.

The consequences of not addressing the methodology underpinning the new draft guideline are that millions of people suffering from depression will be discriminated against through misleading treatment recommendations. There will also be a damaging impact on services, the mental health workforce, and the way in which research on depression is conducted in the future.

We have therefore come together to express our ongoing support of the attached position statement. Following the constructive recent meeting with stakeholders we urge you to meaningfully respond to the repeatedly raised concerns and to address all of these adequately in the proposed third revision of the guideline.

We look forward to your prompt reply.

Yours Sincerely,



Barbara Keeley MP
Shadow Cabinet Minister for Mental Health
and Social Care

Debbie Abrahams MP

Heidi Allen MP

Luciana Berger MP

Rt Hon Tom Brake MP

Richard Burden MP

Ruth Cadbury MP

Baroness Campbell of Surbiton

Sarah Champion MP

Gloria De Piero MP

Paul Farrelly MP

Ruth George MP

Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP

Wera Hobhouse MP

Baroness Hollins

Diana Johnson MP

Rt Hon Kevan Jones MP

Rt Hon David Lammy MP

Baroness Lister of Burtersett

Tim Loughton MP

Sandy Martin MP

Johnny Mercer MP

Chi Onwurah MP

Stephanie Peacock MP

Rt Hon Sir Norman Lamb MP
Former Minister of State for Care

Lord Alderdice

Sir David Amess MP

Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP

Baroness Browning

Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP

Dr Lisa Cameron MP

Dan Carden MP

Julie Cooper MP

Dr David Drew MP

Rt Hon Frank Field MP

Andrew Gwynne MP

Helen Hayes MP

Sharon Hodgson MP

Christine Jardine MP

Baroness Jolly

Stephen Kinnock MP

Rt Hon Sir Oliver Letwin MP

The Earl of Listowel

Caroline Lucas MP

Baroness Massey of Darwen

Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP

Lord Patel of Bradford

Steve Reed MP



Chris Ruane MP

Tulip Siddiq MP

Alex Sobel MP

Baroness Thornhill

Baroness Watkins of Tavistock

Dr Philippa Whitford MP

Daniel Zeichner MP

Lord Shinkwin

Cat Smith MP

Paul Sweeney MP

Baroness Tyler of Enfield

Giles Watling MP

Dr Paul Williams MP