

Health and Social Care: Access to Social Care

Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health and Social Care Committee, Chair, Liaison Committee (Commons)

One of the most pressing issues for those who depend on social care is resolution of the back-pay issue for sleep-in shifts. Will the Secretary of State update the House with his own estimate of the liability? The independent sector puts this liability collectively at around Â£400 million. Will he also update us on the progress being made, because he will know that many sectors are handing back their contracts and withdrawing?

Jeremy Hunt Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

I thank my hon. Friend for raising this serious issue, and I can reassure her that a lot of work has been going on inside the Government to work out how to resolve the issue. A court case is due that may have a material impact on those numbers, but we are continuing to work very hard and fully understand the fragility of the current market situation.

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