



## Jonathan Gullis MP

*Member of Parliament for Stoke-on-Trent North, Kidsgrove and Talke*

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

23 April 2020

Dear Matt

**Re: The restoration of public health grants**

First and foremost, I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. I am writing today in lieu of a question I was due to put to the First Secretary during Prime Minister's Questions this week.

Stoke-on-Trent North, Kidsgrove and Talke falls within one of the 20 per cent most deprived district authorities in England with 52.8 per cent of residents living in disadvantaged circumstances, an unemployment level higher than the national average and poor mental and physical health. In Stoke-on-Trent the life expectancy is lower than the national average for both men and women.

We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that financial and social deprivation correspond directly with poor public health. The devolution of responsibility for public health has proven effective in that local authorities have the ability to tailor public health programmes in accordance with the specific requirements of the area, however this is only effective when comprehensively funded.

Over the past few years, funding for local authorities has suffered as the Government made tough decisions to keep the economy thriving. However, I believe it is time to reinvest in our local authorities and increase public health grants to protect our most vulnerable citizens, especially in the wake of COVID-19. I would also like to see a dedicated, long-term social care plan to safeguard essential services in communities across the country.

I would be very interested in discussing this further with you or, as I appreciate you must be incredibly busy during this time, hearing more about the Department's plans in this area.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Gullis MP