



**Baroness Campbell of Surbiton DBE**  
**House of Lords**  
**Westminster SW1A 0PW**

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Helen Whately  
Minister of State (Minister for Care)  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria St  
Westminster  
London SW1H 0EU

Sunday, 15 March 2020

Dear Helen

**Re: Government guidance to disabled people with high support needs  
effected by Covid 19**

I am writing to express my concern about disabled people (like myself), who are unable to completely self-isolate during the Covid 19 pandemic. I am wondering what plans there are in place for those disabled people who cannot self-isolate, in the event of one of their personal care assistants coming into contact with the virus, either directly or indirectly? What happens to those who need 24-hour care at home and either they, or their care-giver is tested positive or even feels a bit under the weather with a cold?

Even more concerning is the risk of our support teams becoming unable to care for us. I and others like me who employ carers directly with a social or health care personal budget, cannot simply ring up an agency for care cover. We are not in a position to manage at all without our personal care support workers, who we

employ directly and are highly trained to assist us. There are thousands of us in this position, in the UK and yet the NHS England guidance does not mention what this particular group of direct payment users should do. :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-social-or-community-care-and-residential-settings-on-covid-19>. As a result, we are feeling particularly vulnerable at this time, without any detailed information on our particular circumstances. As we are deemed to be in the highest risk group, I feel there is an urgent need for greater information and planning for this cohort.

I wonder whether you could point me to any government officials/experts working on this issue? The Public Health England guidance does suggest that people self-isolating and asymptomatic should continue to receive care after a risk assessment. How does one contact such assessors? Is there special number to call in such circumstances?

Where might I find more detailed information about all of these issues, so that I may pass it on through my various networks?

I look forward to from you.

Yours sincerely

**Personal Data**

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**cc: Matt Hancock**