

Source: UK House of Lords

Date: February 10, 2022

URL:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-02-10/debates/5FD05E16-2DA3-4330-845F-65C04CF35E02/NationalDisabilityStrategy>

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Ref: <http://www.me-net.combidom.com/meweb/web1.4.htm#westminster>

[Debates]

National Disability Strategy

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(...)

Lord Singh of Wimbledon

Does the Minister agree that a country's civilisation is measured by the care and compassion it gives its disabled and vulnerable citizens — a role all too often left to charities with inadequate resources?

Charities such as Action for ME work with inadequate resources to improve the lives of those with this debilitating condition. Will the Government conduct a full review of current ME provision, with a view to establishing a national strategy for ME in the UK?

Baroness Scott of Bybrook

I agree with the noble Lord that charities do a lot in this country, but when the Government work with charities and others in the third sector, we can do more. I will certainly take the question on ME provision to colleagues in the Department of Health to discuss this. I do not know whether they are willing to do a review, but I will ask them to get in touch with the noble Lord.

(...)

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

My Lords, will the Government commit to increase the funding for research into conditions such as ME, which has already been referred to, so that children and adults across the UK can receive the right care and support that they so urgently and desperately need?

Baroness Scott of Bybrook

I think that, working with the charitable sector, exactly as I said to the noble Lord previously, that is something we should do. I will take that back to my noble friend in the Department of Health.

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