

Source: UK House of Commons

Date: November 17, 2023

URL:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/236>

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

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Daniel Zeichner

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that funding for biomedical research into myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) is adequate; and whether he plans to take steps to establish a centre of excellence on ME to (a) promote understanding of and (b) develop effective treatments for that illness.

Andrew Stephenson

The Department funds research through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). The NIHR has provided around 4.4 million pounds of programme funding for research on myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) since 2011.

Through the NIHR, the Department has co-funded, with the Medical Research Council (MRC) a 3.2 million pounds study called DecodeME into the genetic underpinning of ME/CFS. The study will analyse samples from 25,000 people with ME/CFS to search for genetic differences that may indicate underlying causes or an increased risk of developing the condition. This study aims to increase our understanding of the disease and therefore contribute to the research base on diagnostic tests and targeted treatments for ME/CFS.

The Department and the NIHR has no specific plans to establish a centre of excellence for ME research. The NIHR welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including biomedical research for ME/CFS. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made based on the importance of the topic to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality. In all disease areas, the amount of NIHR funding depends on the volume and quality of scientific activity.

(c) 2023 UK Parliament