Source: UK House of Commons
Date: February 4, 2025
URL:
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-01-27/26709
Ref: http://www.me-net.combidom.com/meweb/web1.4.htm#westminster

[Written Answers]

Employment: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Steve Darling

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the economy of economic inactivity due to myalgic encephalomyelitis.

Alison McGovern

The Department has not made an estimate of the cost to the economy of economic inactivity due to myalgic encephalomyelitis.

The Department is committed to supporting disabled people and people with health conditions, including myalgic encephalomyelitis, with their employment journey.

As part of our Get Britain Working plan, more disabled people and people with health conditions will be supported to enter and stay in work. We will devolve power to local areas to shape a joined-up work, health, and skills offer meeting the needs of the people they serve.

Source: UK House of Commons
Date: February 17, 2025
URL:

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-11/30791
Ref: http://www.me-net.combidom.com/meweb/web1.4.htm#westminster

[Written Answers]

Employment: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Long Covid

Jo Platt

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps she is taking to support people with (a) Long Covid and (b) ME back into the workplace.

Alison McGovern

Backed by 240m pounds investment, the Get Britain Working White Paper launched on 26 November will drive forward approaches to tackling economic inactivity and work toward the long-term ambition of an 80% employment rate.

We are committed to reforming the system of health and disability benefits so that it promotes and enables employment among as many people as possible. The system must also support disabled people to live independently. It is also vital to ensure that the system is financially sustainable in the long term. We are working to develop proposals for reform in the months ahead and will set them out in a Green Paper ahead of the Spring Statement later this year.

Appropriate work is generally good for health and wellbeing, so we want everyone to get work and get on in work, whoever they are and wherever they live.

Disabled people and people with health conditions, including those with Long Covid and/or ME, are a diverse group so access to the right work and health support, in the right place, at the right time, is key. We therefore have a range of specialist initiatives to support individuals to stay in work and get back into work, including those that join up employment and health systems.

Measures include support from Work Coaches and Disability Employment Advisers in Jobcentres and Access to Work grants, as well as joining up health and employment support around the individual through Employment Advisors in NHS Talking Therapies and Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care.

Employers play a key role in increasing employment opportunities and supporting disabled people and people with health conditions, to thrive as part of the workforce. Our support to employers includes increasing access to Occupational Health, a digital information service for employers(opens in a new tab) and the Disability Confident scheme.

Source: UK House of Commons
Date: February 17, 2025
URL:
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-05/29110
Ref: http://www.me-net.combidom.com/meweb/web1.4.htm#westminster

[Written Answers]

Infectious Diseases: Health Services

Jo Platt

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department has plans to allocate additional funding towards the Government's myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue delivery plan.

Ashley Dalton

There are currently no plans to allocate additional funding towards the myalgic encephalomyelitis / chronic fatigue (ME/CFS) final delivery plan. The ME/CFS final delivery plan continues to be developed.

The plan will focus on improving research, attitudes and education, and bettering the lives of people with this disease. The consultation responses, alongside continued stakeholder engagement via the ME/CFS Task and Finish Group, will inform the development of the final delivery plan for ME/CFS, which we aim to publish by the end of March 2025.

Source: UK House of Commons
Date: February 17, 2025
URL: https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-05/29111
Ref: http://www.me-net.combidom.com/meweb/web1.4.htm#westminster

[Written Answers]

Infectious Diseases: Health Services

Jo Platt

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing a centre of excellence for care and research for infection-associated chronic conditions.

Ashley Dalton

We do not anticipate setting up a new centre of excellence for care and research specifically for post-viral or infection-associated conditions. The Department funds research on post-viral conditions through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). The NIHR and Medical Research Council (MRC) remain committed to funding high-quality research to understand the causes, consequences, and treatment of post-viral conditions such as myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), and long COVID, and are actively exploring next steps for stimulating further research in this area. The MRC and NIHR currently fund research through a variety of routes, including infrastructure, research programmes, capacity building, for example research fellowships, and in the case of NIHR, research delivery to support recruitment to studies. Funding is available for infection-associated research.

Source: UK House of Lords
Date: February 25, 2025
URL:
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-10/hl4874

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-10/hl4875
Ref: http://www.me-net.combidom.com/meweb/web1.4.htm#westminster

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

To ask His Majesty's Government how the cross-government delivery plan for myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome will ensure collaborative work with patient advocates, philanthropy and industry partners to leverage additional funding for biomedical research.

To ask His Majesty's Government how the cross-government delivery plan for myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome will reflect their commitment to embracing the opportunities of digitalisation for

NHS services.

Baroness Merron

The Government is committed to better care and support for people living with myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS). We have reconvened the ME/CFS Task and Finish Group, including senior Department and cross-Government officials, ME/CFS specialists and researchers, representatives from NHS England, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), the Medical Research Council (MRC), the devolved administrations, ME/CFS charities, and organisations and patients with lived experience of ME/CFS.

We cannot comment on the exact content of the final delivery plan at this time, but it will be shaped by responses to the 2023 consultation on the interim delivery plan, alongside continued stakeholder engagement via the ME/CFS Task and Finish Group, with three broad themes of boosting research, improving attitudes and education, and bettering the lives of those living with ME/CFS. We aim to publish the final delivery plan by the end of March 2025.

Research is an important pillar of the delivery plan for ME/CFS. Future planned action to support research in this area will take a cross-sectoral and inclusive approach, recognising the value of patient and public representatives in particular.

The Department funds research on ME/CFS through the NIHR and the MRC. The NIHR and the MRC remain committed to funding high-quality research to understand the causes, consequences, and treatment of ME/CFS, and are actively exploring the next steps for stimulating further research in this area. The MRC and NIHR currently fund research through a variety of routes, including infrastructure, research programmes, capacity building, through for example research fellowships, and, in the case of the NIHR, research delivery to support recruitment to studies. The NIHR welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with partners, including patient representative groups and industry, to stimulate further research in this area.

Source: UK House of Commons
Date: February 26, 2025
URL:
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-13/31519
Ref: http://www.me-net.combidom.com/meweb/web1.4.htm#westminster

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Wendy Chamberlain

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will take steps to ensure that the cross-government delivery plan for ME/CFS establishes a common UK-wide approach.

Ashley Dalton

The final delivery plan for myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome, will cover the population of England only.

However, due to the United Kingdom-wide nature of this issue, we have maintained engagement with the devolved administrations during the analysis of the consultation responses on the interim delivery plan, as well as on the ongoing development of the final plan.

We will continue to work closely with those devolved administrations to ensure that policy development and learning across the UK's nations is shared.

Source: UK House of Lords
Date: February 27, 2025
URL:
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-12/hl4984

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-12/hl4997
Ref: http://www.me-net.combidom.com/meweb/web1.4.htm#westminster

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to include the development of standards for the care of people with severe myalgic encephalomyelitis in their delivery plan for myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome.

Baroness Scott of Needham Market

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to introduce a goal of 100 percent compliance by 2028 with the 2021 NICE guideline on myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), as part of their delivery plan for ME/CFS.

Baroness Merron

The content of the myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), delivery plan has not yet been finalised. The responses to the 2023 interim delivery plan consultation, along with continued close engagement with stakeholders, will inform the development of the final ME/CFS delivery plan which we aim to publish by end of March. The plan will focus on boosting research, improving attitudes and education, and bettering the lives of people with this debilitating disease.

To support this, we have reconvened the ME/CFS Task and Finish Group, including senior Department and cross-Government officials, ME/CFS specialists and representatives from NHS England, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, the devolved administrations, and ME/CFS charities and organisations in the development of the final delivery plan for ME/CFS.

Source: UK House of Commons
Date: February 28, 2025
URL:
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-21/32879
Ref: http://www.me-net.combidom.com/meweb/web1.4.htm#westminster

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

David Reed

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the final delivery plan on myalgic encephalomyelitis will be published in March 2025; and what steps he plans to take to ensure its effectiveness without additional funding.

Ashley Dalton

The Department of Health and Social Care has indicated that it will not be possible to answer this question within the usual time period. An answer is being prepared and will be provided as soon as it is available.

[This is a holding answer. It may be superseded/updated at a future date.]

Source: UK House of Commons
Date: February 28, 2025
URL:
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-13/31706
Ref: http://www.me-net.combidom.com/meweb/web1.4.htm#westminster

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Long Covid: Health Services

Mr Will Forster

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps NHS England is taking to support people with (a) ME and (b) long Covid; what funding has been allocated to Surrey for treatment of such conditions; and what the waiting times are for (i) diagnosis and (ii) care in Surrey.

Ashley Dalton

Integrated care boards (ICBs) are responsible for determining the level of long COVID and myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), services locally, and are responsible for ensuring that the services they commission meet the needs of their local populations.

I have been advised by NHS England that NHS Surrey Heartlands has taken the decision to no longer operate dedicated long COVID services following the publication of updated guidance by NHS England, in April 2024, on the provision of long COVID services.

As of 8 July 2024, patients presenting with symptoms that may be linked to long COVID will be referred to other available services depending on their symptoms, including chronic fatigue services, physiotherapy and rehabilitation services, and mental health services such as psychotherapy.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the patients who are currently accessing these services complete their therapy and, if appropriate, are transferred to other services specific to their needs.

NHS Surrey Heartlands recognises that this decision may cause concern for people receiving care within current long COVID services, however, patients will continue to receive support and advice. We are working with the current providers of long COVID services, First Community Health and Care and Surrey Downs Health and Care, to ensure that patients are transferred into alternative pathways safely.

NHS England has recently completed a long COVID stocktake, aiming to provide a national overview of the service delivery of commissioning and contracting, assessing access, activity, and outcomes. Executive NHS England board members were updated on the current provision of long COVID services, noting the challenges and significant variation. NHS England will continue to support the ICBs to enhance service quality and ensure equitable access to care and consistency across the system.
