

Source: UK House of Commons

Date: February 17, 2026

URL:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-01-27/108773>

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

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services  
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Jo Platt

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, in response to Question tabled on 15 December 2025, UIN 99871, if the Government can outline what steps are being taken to ensure the needs of people with severe Myalgic Encephalomyelitis are adequacy met.

Ashley Dalton

The final delivery plan on myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), published in July 2025, includes an action for the Department and NHS England to explore whether a specialised service should be prescribed by my Rt. Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, for severe ME/CFS. Officials from the Department have commenced discussions with NHS England on how best to take forward this action.

The third and final session in NHS England's newly-developed ME/CFS e-learning series, Managing Severe ME/CFS, is now live on the NHS Learning Hub. This session provides practical, evidence-based guidance for healthcare professionals to support people living with severe and very severe ME/CFS.

Additionally, as set out in the Plan for Change, we are committed to returning to the NHS constitutional standard that 92% of patients wait no longer than 18 weeks from referral to consultant-led treatment by March 2029. We exceeded our pledge to deliver an extra two million

appointments, tests, and operations in our first year of government, having delivered 5.2 million additional appointments between July 2024 and June 2025. This will help people with severe ME/CFS to get support sooner.

The 10-Year Health Plan sets out a transformed vision for elective care by 2035, where most interactions no longer take place in a hospital building, instead happening virtually or via neighbourhood services. We will empower patients by giving them greater choice and control and establishing expected standards for making their experience of planned NHS care as smooth, supportive and convenient as possible, including for people with severe ME/CFS.

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-02-06/111467>

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

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

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Max Wilkinson

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what progress the MRS has made in delivering mechanistic research into ME/CFS.

Dr Zubir Ahmed

We do not know what 'MRS' refers to in this context. The Department funds research through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). A limited amount of mechanistic research is funded

through the NIHR, but the majority of mechanistic research is funded through the Medical Research Council (MRC), a UK Research and Innovation Council sponsored by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. Mechanistic research into myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome, is within the remit of the MRC.

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Source: AfME

Date: March 4, 2027

URL:

<https://www.actionforme.org.uk/new-minister-for-public-health-and-prevention-appointed/>

Ref: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/appointments-3-march-2026>

New Minister for Public Health and Prevention appointed

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Following Ashley Dalton MP's recent resignation from Ministerial duties, Sharon Hodgson MP has been appointed as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health & Prevention.

Having previously tabled written questions on ME, alongside her involvement with the previous APPG on ME, we look forward to working with together in her new role.

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Source: UK House of Commons

Date: March 5, 2026

URL:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-02-27/116469>

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

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

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Tessa Munt

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what clinical criteria are under consideration for determining eligibility for any nationally prescribed specialised service for severe or very severe ME.

Mrs Sharon Hodgson

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]

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Source: UK House of Commons

Date: March 5, 2026

URL:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-02-26/116357>

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

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

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Tom Morrison

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 5 November 2025 to Question 86003, if his Department will commission a specific comparative review, in collaboration with the Medical Research Council, into the relative level of National Institute for Health and Care Research funding for research into myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome compared with other long-term conditions.

Dr Zubir Ahmed

The Department does not intend to commission a specific comparative review into the relative level of National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) or Medical Research Council funding for research into myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), compared with other long-term conditions. We recognise that ME/CFS is an under-researched area, and we are committed to working with the ME/CFS community to identify and address barriers to research, with the ambition of supporting and funding more research and capacity-building programmes.

As outlined in the ME/CFS Final Delivery Plan, there has historically been a relatively low amount of biomedical research funded on ME/CFS, compared with disease burden. Our efforts are focussed on delivering the actions outlined in the ME/CFS Final Delivery Plan to support and increase research in this area. Since our answer to Question 86003, we have hosted a showcase on post-acute infection conditions, bringing together people with lived experience, researchers, clinicians, and funders to stimulate further research. A summary of this showcase has been published on NIHR Open Research. We have also made progress with our new funding opportunity for development awards focussed on the feasibility of a phase 2 platform clinical trial. This would test multiple repurposed pharmaceutical interventions and/or non-pharmacological interventions for the treatment of post-viral conditions including ME/CFS. The committee will now consider the applications, and shortlisting decisions will be shared with the researchers in March.

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Source: UK House of Commons

Date: March 10, 2026

URL:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-03-02/116918>

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

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

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Max Wilkinson

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what progress the Medical Research Council has made on delivering ME/CFS research improvements.

Kanishka Narayan

The Medical Research Council (MRC), which is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), has prioritised research into Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) for many years, investing over 4.65 million pounds since 2020, and welcomes high quality applications in this area.

MRC is working with the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to deliver on agreed actions from the ME/CFS Final Delivery Plan([opens in a new tab](#)). This includes funding strategic initiatives to increase research capacity and hosting engagement events to bring together research funders, commercial and academic researchers and patient representatives. For example, in November DHSC, NIHR and UKRI, co-hosted a research showcase to discuss and explore the ongoing research in the fields of ME/CFS and long COVID. MRC continues to liaise with the ME/CFS research community to support future applicants.

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Source: UK House of Commons

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-03-05/118338>

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

[Written Answers]

Personal Independence Payment: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

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Tom Morrison

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of Personal Independence Payment assessments in addressing the fluctuating and energy-limiting nature of Myalgic encephalomyelitis.

Sir Stephen Timms

Myalgic encephalomyelitis or chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) is a medically recognised condition associated with a range of disabling effects which depend upon the severity of the condition.

All Health Professionals (HPs) receive comprehensive training in disability analysis, including how to assess the impacts of medical conditions on claimant's day-to-day activities, as well as awareness training in a range of conditions, symptoms and disabilities. HPs have access to a wide range of Core Training and Guidance Material (CTGM). These resources offer detailed clinical and functional information, including the potential risks and limitations of a range of conditions, such as ME/CFS, to support HPs in delivering informed assessments. All core training and guidance materials are quality assured to ensure their accuracy from both a clinical and policy perspective.

In addition, the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) criteria consider an individual's ability over a 12-month period, ensuring that fluctuations are considered. It is essential for the assessment to accurately reflect the impact of variations in an individual's level of impairment, this is important for all health conditions, not only those which more typically fluctuate. For each activity, if a descriptor applies on more than 50 per cent of the days in the 12-month period, that descriptor should be chosen. In general, HPs should record function over an average year for conditions that fluctuate over months, per week for conditions that fluctuate by the day, and by the day for conditions that vary over a day.

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

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

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Gregory Stafford

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how he is ensuring accountability for delivery of commitments made in the Final Delivery Plan on ME/CFS affecting people with severe and very severe ME; and what timelines and funding have been set for specialist provision.

Mrs Sharon Hodgson

Each action in the final delivery plan on myalgic encephalomyelitis,

also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), has a designated lead department or organisation, with the Department of Health and Social Care being ultimately responsible for overseeing the delivery of the plan as a whole, including holding other organisations to account for delivering actions.

At this stage, Department and NHS England officials have been working carefully through the steps needed to make a decision on the prescription of a specialised service for very severe ME/CFS. My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, is responsible for a decision on the prescribing of specialised services, which requires consultation with NHS England.

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-02-09/111905>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-02-09/111906>

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

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services

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Max Wilkinson

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when his Department's proposed timeline is for announcing its decision on the prescription of a specialised service for Very Severe ME/CFS.

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans his Department has made to address the health needs of those classified with

severe ME/CFS while exploring the specialised very severe ME/CFS service.

Mrs Sharon Hodgson

The decision will be announced in due course. At this stage, officials from the Department and NHS England have been working carefully through the steps needed to make a decision on the prescription of a specialised service for very severe myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS). My Rt. Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, is responsible for a decision on the prescribing of specialised services, which requires consultation with NHS England.

The Department is also developing a template service specification for mild and moderate ME/CFS, which also contains references to severe ME/CFS. Further work will need to be undertaken to strengthen support for people with severe ME/CFS, reflecting that people may move between moderate and severe. Future iterations of this document will build on these ongoing considerations and emerging insights.

To support healthcare professionals in the diagnosis and management of ME/CFS, the Department has worked with NHS England to develop an e-learning programme on ME/CFS for healthcare professionals, with the aim of supporting staff to be able to provide better care and improve patient outcomes. The final module of this e-learning programme is focussed on improving understanding of severe ME/CFS in particular. All three sessions of the e-learning programme are now available at the following link:

<https://learninghub.nhs.uk/catalogue/mecfselearning?nodeId=7288>

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

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services  
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Tessa Munt

Wells and Mendip Hills Commons

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what clinical criteria are under consideration for determining eligibility for any nationally prescribed specialised service for severe or very severe ME.

Mrs Sharon Hodgson

[This answer is the replacement for a previous holding answer]

The myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), final delivery plan, published on 22 July 2025, includes an action for the Department and NHS England to explore whether a specialised service should be prescribed by my Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, for very severe ME/CFS. Officials from the Department have commenced discussions with NHS England on how best to take forward this action.

Three factors determine whether a service is a prescribed specialised service. These are: the number of individuals who require the service; the cost of providing the service or facility; and the number of people able to provide the service or facility.

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Source: UK House of Commons

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URL:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-03-04/118116>

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

[Written Answers]

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Health Services  
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Gregory Stafford

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what actions have been delivered under the Final Delivery Plan on ME/CFS to improve access to healthcare and support for people with severe and very severe ME.

Mrs Sharon Hodgson

The Department is currently developing a template service specification for mild and moderate myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), which also references severe ME/CFS. Further work will need to be undertaken to strengthen support for people with severe ME/CFS, reflecting that people may move between moderate and severe. Future iterations of this document will build on ongoing considerations and emerging insights of severe and very severe ME/CFS.

Departmental and NHS England officials have been working carefully through the steps needed to make a decision on the prescription of a specialised service for very severe ME/CFS. My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, is responsible for a decision on the prescribing of specialised services, which requires consultation with NHS England.

To support healthcare professionals in the diagnosis and management of ME/CFS, the Department has worked with NHS England to develop an e-learning programme on ME/CFS for healthcare professionals. The final module of this e-learning programme is focussed on managing severe ME/CFS.

Additionally, as set out in the Plan for Change, we are committed to returning to the National Health Service constitutional standard that

92% of patients wait no longer than 18 weeks from referral to consultant-led treatment by March 2029. We delivered 5.2 million additional appointments between July 2024 and June 2025. This will help people with severe ME/CFS to get support sooner. The Plan for Change is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/missions>(opens in a new tab)

The 10-Year Health Plan sets out a transformed vision for elective care by 2035, where most interactions no longer take place in a hospital building, instead happening virtually or via neighbourhood services. This will enable patients with severe or very severe ME/CFS who are housebound or bedbound to access support more easily.

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Source: The Sussex Argus

Date: March 26, 2026

Author: Samanta Gladkauskaite

URL:

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25965063.sussex-mps-back-cfs-charity-supporting-patients/>

Sussex MPs back ME and CFS charity supporting patients

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Two more MPs have pledged their backing to a charity supporting people with a chronic illness.

Mid Sussex MP Alison Bennett and Horsham's John Milne have joined the Sussex ME/CFS Society. The Brighton-based charity supports people across the county who live with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), more commonly known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) and Long Covid. The society has a long history of cross-party political support, beginning with Sir Andrew Bowden MBE.

Chris Ward MP for Brighton Kemptown says: 'The work of the Sussex ME/CFS Society is truly inspiring. Their commitment to advocacy, research and supporting those living with ME and CFS has been a guiding light to many. Winning the prestige award in 2025 underlines this and I look

forward to seeing the continued impact of their much needed work in our community.'

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