



THE NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE

The Neurological Alliance
The Junction
Station Road
Watford
WD17 1EU

@NeuroAlliance

The Rt Hon Victoria Atkins MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

07 December 2023

Dear Secretary of State

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care at this critical time for services, staff and people affected by neurological conditions.

The Neurological Alliance is England's leading coalition of organisations committed to improving treatment, care and support for the one in six of us with a neurological condition. Neurological conditions affect the brain, spine or nerves – they can affect anyone, at any age, at any time. Because these systems control your mind and body, neurological conditions can affect the way you think and feel and interact with the world.

Together with our 100 members we provide a collective voice for our sector and the neurological community.

In June 2023 we submitted our Back The 1 in 6 petition to the Department calling for the establishment of a Neuro Taskforce. Our ask is supported by over 19,000 people as well as Neurological Alliances and their members across the UK. It is underpinned by the experiences of over 8,500 people who responded to My Neuro Survey, the largest patient experience survey of its kind. Their experiences highlighted a number of key challenges facing our community including a lack of mental health and wellbeing support, delays to treatment and care and insufficient information at the point of diagnosis.

Despite affecting millions of people and costing billions of pounds, too often people affected by neurological conditions are unable to access the services and support necessary to meet their needs. A Neuro Taskforce would provide the cross-government prioritisation and framework necessary to address these challenges and transform services and support for our community.

We are yet to receive a formal response to our petition from the Department however we have had positive engagement with officials both in DHSC and Downing Street, including progress on securing a meeting with the former relevant Minister Will Quince MP.

The Neurological Alliance | Registered charity 1039034 | Company limited by guarantee registered in England 2939840 | Registered office: The Junction, Station Road, Watford WD17 1EU.

www.neural.org.uk

#BackThe1in6

Despite changes to the Ministerial team in the Department, we are committed to ensuring that this progress is not lost and to working with the incoming Ministerial team and officials to improve services, support and outcomes for people affected by neurological conditions.

This is a critical time. Therapeutic advances, including in conditions for which there are currently limited or no treatment options, have the potential to revolutionise quality of life in the future. At the same time, there are treatments, interventions and support that thousands of people affected by neurological conditions could access now, but we simply do not have sufficient workforce or adequate services to deliver these equitably. By optimising care now, and preparing services to deliver successes in research in the future, we have the potential to deliver more efficient and effective services, as well as dramatically improve quality of life for millions across the country.

We would be very grateful for a meeting with the relevant Minister to discuss how we can work together to deliver on our shared priorities. We would be similarly grateful for a formal response from the Department to our Back The 1 in 6 petition and the experiences and insights underpinning it.

Yours sincerely

Georgina Carr, Chief Executive, The Neurological Alliance
Richard Davenport, President, Association of British Neurologists
Adine Adonis, Chair, Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Neurology (ACPIN)
Tony Thornburn, Chief Executive, Behçet's UK
Rustam Al-Shahi Salman, President, British and Irish Association of Stroke Physicians
Marc Smith, Chief Executive, Brain and Spine Foundation
Dan Knowles, Chief Executive, Brain Tumour Research
Dr Daniel Lumsden, Secretary, British Paediatric Neurology Association (BPNA)
Kripen Dhrona, Chief Executive, British Polio Fellowship
Austin Willet, Chief Executive, Different Strokes
Victoria Wareham, Director of Operations, Dystonia UK
Rebekah Smith, Deputy Chief Executive, Epilepsy Action
Jo Livingstone, Director, Face Blind UK
Kim Hearne, Chief Executive, FND Action
Steve Webster, Chief Executive, FND Dimensions
Dawn Golder, Chief Executive, FND Hope UK
Luke Griggs, Chief Executive, Headway – the brain injury association
Rebecca Middleton, Chief Executive, Hereditary Brain Aneurysm Support
Cath Stanley, Chief Executive, Huntington's Disease Association
Lesley Pope, Chairperson, Independent Neurorehabilitation Providers Alliance (INPA)
Joanne Griffiths, Chief Executive, Intractable Epilepsy
Rob Music, Chief Executive, Migraine Trust
Kielan Arblaster, Policy Manager, Motor Neurone Disease Association
Nick Moberly, Chief Executive, MS Society
Karen Walker, Chief Executive, Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) Trust
Sarah Gillett, Managing Director, Neurology Academy
Paul Spaven, Chief Executive, Neurotherapy Network
Juliet Tizzard, Director of External Relation, Parkinson's UK

Katrina Burchell, Chief Executive, Pernicious Anaemia Society
Simon Parritt, Chair, Polio Survivors Network
Rebecca Packwood, Chief Executive, PSP Association
Sammy Ashby, Chief Executive, SUDEP Action
Pippa Sargent, Chief Executive, The Brain Charity
Emma McNally, Chief Executive, Tourettes Action
Chloe Hayward, Executive Director, UK Acquired Brain Injury Forum (UKABIF)
Tony Lloyd, Treasurer, West Berkshire Neurological Alliance

Signatories



West Berkshire Neurological Alliance



ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH NEUROLOGISTS



BPNA
British Paediatric Neurology Association



BIASP
British & Irish Association
of Stroke Physicians
Advancing stroke medicine



Connecting knowledge and practice



**Brain Tumour
Research**

Together we will find a cure



FND Dimensions
Support, Knowledge and Awareness



the brain injury association



**Huntington's
Disease
Association**



INPA | Independent
Neurorehabilitation
Providers Alliance
ENSURING EXCELLENCE IN NEUROREHABILITATION



PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.



**Brain & Spine
Foundation**

SUDEP Action
Making every epilepsy death count



The United Kingdom
Acquired Brain Injury Forum



motor neurone disease
association

