



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Helen Whately MP  
Minister of State  
Department of Health and Social Care  
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries Unit  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

22 April 2021

Dear Helen,

We are writing to you regarding Government funding for research into motor neurone disease (MND) and the upcoming roundtable on 29 April.

As you know, MND is a devastating terminal condition with half of people dying within two years of diagnosis. Up to 1 in 300 people will develop MND in their lifetimes, which means that over 200,000 of the current UK population will die from MND unless effective treatments are found.

The UK is a global leader in scientific research and MND scientists are already establishing world-leading drug discovery processes and trial platform foundations. Despite limited investment, MND is one of the fastest moving sectors in UK health and biomedical research. Current genomics studies hold real promise and scientists believe they are on the cusp of developing an effective treatment for some forms of MND.

Additionally, MND is incredibly valuable to research into the more common neurodegenerative diseases such as the dementias. The rapidity of MND progression makes it easier to pioneer and trial treatments in a realistic time frame.

Investment from Government will help the UK consolidate its position as a world leader in MND research and attract greater investment from major global pharmaceutical companies. It would also support the Government's levelling up agenda, with research based across the UK's regions and nations, would strengthen the UK's post-Covid recovery and support the Government's ambition to be a science superpower.

There has been growing support for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on MND, with MPs taking an increasing interest in the disease. We hope you will use the round table on 29 April to commit to investing in MND research and set out how the Government plans to harness the opportunities offered by this promising sector of biomedical science.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andrew Lewer', written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Lewer MBE MP  
Peter Aldous MP  
Holly Mumby-Croft MP  
Dr James Davies MP

**ANDREW LEWER MBE MP**

NORTHAMPTON SOUTH



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