This week in Parliament I was delighted to welcome so many Healthcare Assistants and Nursing Assistants from across the NHS and social care to an event in the Speaker's House to thank them and recognise their work.

There are 1.3million HCAs and NAs at the frontline of caring for people in their homes, our hospitals and care homes. They face a challenging but undervalued role sometimes in demanding conditions.

Jeremy Hunt, the Secretary of State for Health paid special tribute to the role that HCAs play and was joined by Sir Peter Carter (Chief Executive of the Royal College of Nursing) and Camilla Cavendish (author of the Cavendish Review) in answering questions about implementing the Cavendish Review in order to support HCAs to develop their role and to introduce a nationally recognised certificate of care.

From Devon, I was delighted to be joined by Brenda and Alison from Totnes Hospital and Alison, Nicole, Hugh, Jan and Nita from Devon's Community Care team to thank them for the work they do supporting people from across the county.
Students from the first intake of the new Devon Studio School also attended and got the chance to meet the review's author before discussing their first impressions of the Studio School.

I am delighted that the government has accepted almost all the recommendations in the Cavendish Review as once implemented they will not only improve working conditions and training for HCAs but will benefit those for whom they care.