Written Answer

Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health Committee

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that funding is sufficient to meet patient demand in (a) community mental healthcare and (b) inpatient mental healthcare; and if he will make a statement.

Alistair Burt The Minister of State, Department of Health

NHS England's Planning Guidance for 2015/16, Forward View into action: planning for 2015-16, sets out the expectation that clinical commissioning groups' (CCGs) spending on mental health services in 2015/16 should increase in real terms, and grow by at least as much as each CCG's allocation increase to support the ambition of parity between mental and physical health. Compliance with the Planning Guidance is being assured at national and Area Team level.