Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

I welcome my right hon. Friend’s statement, and in particular the recognition of the role of housing in helping people to live independently in their own homes. Will he elaborate further on how the £200 million extra may be spent by local councils? Does he support the recommendation of the Health Committee that we have a single commissioner for health, social care and housing?

Andrew Lansley (Secretary of State, Health; South Cambridgeshire, Conservative)

The £200 million over a period of five years that I have announced today will be able to leverage, with the involvement of private sector investment and social landlords, an opportunity for several thousand additional places in specialist housing for older people and those with disabilities. We are talking about the kind of extra-care homes that give people the sense that they are moving into their own home, but with care available. That will be available in people’s own communities to a greater extent if we can increase the supply.