



Alison Bennett

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

14th October 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Save our Hospices Campaign

Our hospices are on their knees. 300 beds lie empty, while sick and dying people have to be turned away. Inpatient units are closing, and the trickle of redundancies is turning into a stream. We face the unprecedented threat of *half* of children's hospices cutting their end-of-life care or scrapping it altogether if ring-fenced funding is not urgently guaranteed.

Hospices relieve pressure on our NHS and provide essential services. They offer extraordinary dignity, comfort and peace for people in their final months. Yet they are expected to raise ever higher sums from bake sales and park-runs just to keep going.

⅓ of their income comes, on average, from our NHS. Many receive substantially less than this because, under our broken system, each hospice must plead for funding from their local integrated care board, with no national process or recognition of their value.

Hospices suffered real terms cuts under the last government, and now a massive National Insurance raid under this one.

We have reached a tipping point. A full 40% of hospices are planning cuts this year with more to come next year. There have been hundreds of jobs lost. Care at home services have been cut, inpatient units closed, and beds shuttered.

Enough. We urge you to grasp the nettle and act without delay. We are calling on you to:

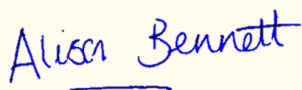
- **End the postcode lottery of hospice care** by allocating funding by demand so that areas that struggle to attract charitable funding are properly supported to deliver high quality care no matter where they operate.

- **Protect children's hospices** by maintaining their ringfenced funding and following the recommendations of the sector for annual uplifts to £30m by the end of the Parliament.
- **Prevent a devastating erosion of services** by immediately exempting hospices from the April increase in Employer National Insurance Contributions.
- **Tackle understaffing** through a dedicated hospice workforce plan to cut vacancy rates as soon as possible, ensuring providers can deliver services for all those in need.
- **Support bereaved families** by working with hospices to improve access to bereavement counselling and therapy for anyone needing support from the point of a loved one's diagnosis.
- **Properly integrate hospices with our NHS** including by embedding palliative care specialists in every hospital emergency department so people can be re-directed towards care in the community. This has been successfully trialled with Marie Curie and would ensure people receive the best possible care at end of life. We also urge you to add End of Life Care advice as a call option on the 111 service, so that families can always be confident of 24/7 support.

We cannot accept a Cinderella service, where dwindling hospice care is rationed and charitable fundraising falls further and further behind what is needed. Thousands of sick and dying people are crying out for relief. They deserve a system fit for the 21st century.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Bennett MP

Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex

Liberal Democrat Care and Carers Spokesperson

Sir Ed Davey MP - Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Daisy Cooper MP - Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Helen Morgan MP - Liberal Democrat Health and Social Care Spokesperson

Helen Maguire MP - Liberal Democrat Primary Care and Cancer Spokesperson

Danny Chambers MP - Liberal Democrat Mental Health Spokesperson

Dr Al Pinkerton MP	Alex Brewer MP	Andrew George MP
Angus MacDonald MP	Anna Sabine MP	Ben Maguire MP
Bobby Dean MP	Brian Mathew MP	Calum Miller MP
Cameron Thomas MP	Caroline Voaden MP	Charlie Maynard MP
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