



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sir Andrew Dillon  
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence  
10 Spring Gardens  
London  
SW1A 28U

26<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Sir Andrew,

**Re: NICE guidelines on the Recognition and Management of Depression in Adults**

We have come together to express our grave concerns over proposed changes to NICE guidelines on the Recognition and Management of Depression in Adults.

We attach a briefing produced by a coalition of highly-respected individuals and organisations within the mental health sector, setting out a number of concerns relating to the methodology underpinning the revised guidelines and a lack of transparency in the NICE process.

It seems clear that the new guideline will not be fit for purpose unless these concerns are addressed, which could have profound implications for patient access to effective therapies at a time when the number of people seeking treatment for depression is rising. We are also aware that there is a sense that legitimate scientific and medical opinion is being ignored.

We urge you, as a matter of urgency, to consider and respond positively to each of the points raised in the briefing. In particular, we hope that you will address the request for a second consultation to be granted, which will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to ensure that their views and concerns have been suitably addressed and reflected in the final guideline.

We trust that you will recognise the severity of these concerns and the wide-ranging impact of the changes that are being proposed. We look forward to your prompt reply.

Yours sincerely,

**The Rt. Hon. Norman Lamb, MP for North Norfolk**

**Luciana Berger, MP for Liverpool Wavertree**

**Rt. Hon Tom Brake, MP for Carshalton and Wallington**

**Baroness Sheila Hollins, Crossbench Peer**

**Rt. Hon Nicky Morgan, MP for Loughborough**

**Jeff Smith, MP for Manchester Withington**

**Helen Whately, MP for Faversham and Mid Kent**

**Daniel Zeichner, MP for Cambridge**