



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London SW1A 2HQ

JG / ZA25787  
22 October 2018

*Jeas Chancellor*

In recent weeks the Prime Minister has announced spending commitments over the next five years, pledging to increase health spending and reverse the cuts to public spending in other areas. This is welcome news but it is estimated by the Institute of Fiscal Studies the Treasury will need to find £19 billion a year by 2022-23 to fulfil the Prime Minister's promises and it is still unclear how this will be funded.

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituents in the London Borough of Brent to ask you to use the budget in a creative and progressive way to provide local authorities with genuinely new funding for adult social care and public health programmes. An ageing population, more complex needs of residents, and a growing population mean that there is more pressure on services now than ever.

Adjusted for inflation, before austerity kicked in, Brent Council spent the equivalent of £1070 per person per year on essential services and facilities. After 8 years of government cuts, they now spend roughly £650. This is leaving the authority struggling to protect our most vulnerable residents.

### **Brent Facts**

- According to the latest Greater London Authority's population projections the population in the borough is expected to grow by three per cent over the next four years; within this are particularly sharp rises in the 65-84 year group (2.5% per annum) and the over 85 year cohort (4.6% per annum). The numbers in these two groups are significant determinants of the level of spending on adult social care.
- Brent is markedly more diverse than the London average; 54% of residents were born "overseas" (37% for London) and 65% are from BAME groups (43% for London).
- Childhood obesity at 24% is more prevalent than for London as a whole.
- Diabetes amongst those aged 17 and over is 32% higher than the London average.
- Brent is the 39th most deprived borough out of the UK's 326.
- 14% of children live in workless households, 32% live in poverty and the number of children with Education Health and Care Needs Assessments has increased by 14% over the last 3 years.
- Overcrowding is a major problem. Eighteen per cent of all homes are classified in this way, making Brent the 2nd worst in London.



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From the picture I have set out you must understand the disproportionately large reductions in Government funding over this decade, in comparison to other parts of the public sector, have presented serious challenges for Brent Council and their partners. Social care, public health and other vital council services that support my constituents' wider well-being are now under serious threat. But I also ask you to look beyond the figures and the institutions and the structures I describe and consider the cost of these reductions in terms of the misery, illness and disenfranchisement they have caused.

I ask the Chancellor to use the Budget to set out a long-term sustainable funding solution to reflect the characteristics of my borough of Brent and acknowledge the local authority has a lot less money to do the vital work it is charged with doing, and that more people need help from services that are getting more expensive, compounding budget pressures on the poorest and most vulnerable households.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry Gardiner". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Barry Gardiner**  
**Member of Parliament for Brent North**