



National Voices

People shaping health
and social care

Nicola Blackwood MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Innovation
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

22 July 2016

Dear Minister

CONGRATULATIONS AND INTRODUCING NATIONAL VOICES

Congratulations on your appointment to the ministerial team at the Department of Health. National Voices is the leading coalition of charities in the health and care arena. We have worked closely with the Department and its arm's length bodies over several years, as one of its voluntary sector strategic partners.

Our job is to ensure that patients and citizens have a full voice in decisions about health and care, from policy to front-line delivery. The evidence is that citizen involvement powerfully drives improvements in health and wellbeing, treatment outcomes, research, innovation and productivity.

We have a strong interest in patients having access to their own health data, and in the issues surrounding the protection and sharing of patient data for direct care, research and other purposes. I have previously been involved in work undertaken by Dame Fiona Caldicott and in developments preceding the winding up of Care.Data.

I look forward to meeting you and I do hope that you will have an early opportunity to engage with National Voices and our members. I would be delighted to arrange a time for us to explore how we can work together.

In the meantime, I attach a copy of the letter that I sent this week to the Secretary of State.

With best wishes

Jeremy Taylor
Chief Executive