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### **Dementia Mission:**

As constituents may know, in 2022 the Government set out plans for a Dame Barbara Windsor Dementia Mission to enhance progress in dementia research by boosting the number of clinical trials and innovative research projects. I welcome this work. Research offers people living with dementia the prospect of new treatments. But it is important that patients and campaigners are given clarity on the allocation of this funding, and the precise timelines involved. I urge the Government to set out these details.

The Government announced a dedicated dementia strategy last year. Yet after repeated delays and promises of updates “in due course”, the 10-year plan for dementia has been dropped. The Health Secretary has instead announced further consultation on a separate strategy, with dementia featuring as one of six major conditions.

I support plans to truly harness Britain’s power for research. The NHS is a unique environment for researchers and drug developers to conduct clinical trials in. But this opportunity is being wasted and in recent years this industry has collapsed. We need a Life Sciences Sector plan to create jobs and inject growth into research and development investment.

I believe we should make Britain’s clinical research more efficient by cutting unnecessary bureaucracy which slows down the speed at which trials are set up. It should be far easier for people with diseases like dementia to participate in research if they want to. At present, only half of industry trials are meeting their recruitment targets. We should create joined up registries to connect patients to clinical trials, allowing data-enabled recruitment. This would allow more people to participate, speed up recruitment, and improve the diversity of the trials which is vital to ensuring the effectiveness of any new treatments.

We must also build a workforce that is ready and able to meet the research challenges of the future by training the staff the NHS needs and ensuring they have the right skills through long-term workforce planning. I will continue to monitor progress in this area.

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