



Department of Health & Social Care

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Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair of Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London
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Sent via email to: pubaccom@parliament.uk

28 March 2023

Dear Chair,

PAC Hearing – Alcohol Treatment Services

Following the Public Accounts Committee hearing held on 2 March 2023, the Department requested that several amendments be made to the published transcript to correct inaccuracies. The Department was asked to write to the Committee to provide further explanation for one of the corrections.

Residential rehabilitation and inpatient detoxification

In response to Dan Carden MP's question about residential rehabilitation for alcohol dependency, I informed the Committee that the Department increased numbers in inpatient detoxification by 1,800 people in 2022/23. I stated that this number included both NHS detox and residential rehabilitation.

To clarify, the answer that I gave relates solely to specialist inpatient detoxification, rather than residential rehabilitation and inpatient detoxification. Therefore, part of the correction requested relates to this point.

The second element of the correction relates to the fact that I said that the Department had increased inpatient detoxification placements by 1,800, but the actual position is that local authorities' plans for 2022/23 included an additional 1,879 planned placements. Because we do not yet have year-end data on whether they have achieved those plans, the simplest correction would be to say the Department has **ambitions** to increase the provision of specialist inpatient detoxification by 1,800 places.

For background, it is important to note that while the expansion I referred to only applies to inpatient detoxification, the Department also set a national ambition for all areas to send 2% of their drug and alcohol treatment population to residential rehabilitation each year.



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Local areas responded well to this, with plans to achieve this ambition and we are starting to see the numbers go up. After falling for several years, numbers of people receiving treatment in residential rehabilitation for alcohol-only rose from 1,294 in 2020/21 (1.7% of all in treatment for alcohol-only) to 1,525 in 2021/22 (1.8% of all in treatment for alcohol-only).

Yours Sincerely,

Jonathan Marron
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Department of Health and Social Care