



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Ashley Dalton MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Public Health and Prevention*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

Your Ref: CM69886

PO-1660827

Catherine McKinnell MP

By email to: catherine.mckinnell.mp@parliament.uk

6 February 2026

Dear Catherine,

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 November on behalf of one of your constituents about sexual health services. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I appreciate your constituent's concerns.

The Government is committed to reducing harm and inequalities due to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and to end new transmissions of HIV in England by 2030. We are working closely with partners in the NHS, local government and beyond to make progress towards this.

Dedicated sexual health services play a key public health role in diagnosis, early treatment and management of STIs.

Individual local authorities are responsible for funding and commissioning sexual health services that best meet the needs of their local populations, including providing open-access sexual health testing and treatment services through the Public Health Grant, which has risen to £3.884billion in 2025/26. This is a cash increase of £198million on 2024/25, providing local authorities with an average 6.1 per cent cash increase and a 3.4 per cent real-terms increase. This marks the biggest real-terms increase after nearly a decade of reduced spending.

Your constituent, or you on their behalf, may therefore wish to raise their concerns with Newcastle City Council. For ease of reference, contact details can be found at newcastle.gov.uk/contact-us.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

ASHLEY DALTON