



**Chris Heaton-Harris**  
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February 2022

*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about baby loss and parental bereavement.

This issue unfortunately affects many people, and I offer my deepest sympathy to those who have suffered miscarriages, stillbirths, or the loss of child. It is a issue I have been involved with since I entered Parliament in 2010 and was the subject I held my first ever “Westminster Hall Debate” on nearly a decade ago. I absolutely applaud my colleagues who have recounted this difficult experience in their lives in Parliament to raise awareness of baby loss and inspire changes in policy.

The UK is one of the safest places in the world to give birth, however the Government recognises that there is still more to be done. The Department of Health and Social Care has set out a range of measures to deliver its ambition to halve the rates of stillbirths, neonatal deaths and brain injuries that occur during or soon after labour, and maternal deaths by 2025. It is encouraging that good progress has been made on achieving these ambitions. Since 2010, there has been a reduction of 25% in stillbirth rates and a 29% reduction in neonatal mortality rates for babies born after 24 weeks gestation. Of course, there is still work to be done and I welcome the Government’s keen focus on achieving its important ambitions.

I firmly agree that all parents who experience pregnancy and baby loss and would like specialist psychological support should be able to access it. The Government is committed to expanding and transforming mental health services in England so that people, including those affected by the loss of a baby, get the help and support they need. I know that the Government wants to see a further 24,000 women able to access specialist perinatal mental healthcare by 2023, which builds on the additional 30,000 women who can access such services this year. The NHS Long Term Plan seeks to increase mental health support funding by £2.3 billion per year by 2023/24. As part of this, care provided by specialist perinatal mental health services will be available from preconception to 24 months after birth.

I warmly welcome the announcement of an additional £95 million of recurrent funding for maternity services, which is supporting the recruitment of 1,200 midwives and 100 consultant obstetricians.

I thank the APPG on Baby Loss and charities such as Sands for their work to raise awareness in Parliament about the impact of pregnancy or baby loss on thousands of parents every year.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**

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