



September 2023

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about actions being taken to prevent heart disease and reduce waiting times for cardiac care.

I recognise the difficulties facing the Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) system, including ambulance response times for heart attacks. I know that tackling the backlog of treatment, including for cardiac care, is a key priority for this Government. In 2021/22, NHS England and Improvement invested £4.5 million to support improvements and reduce variation in cardiac care across the service.

For 2022/23, NHS England allocated an additional £150 million to support ambulance services to reduce response times through additional call handler recruitment, retention and other measures. In addition, £2.3 billion will be invested to establish Community Diagnostic Centres which will help to improve access to heart scans and reduce waiting lists for cardiac services. However, I fully acknowledge there is much more to be done to improve performance and reduce waiting times further.

Prevention and early detection of cardiovascular disease is vital, and the NHS Health Check programme continues to facilitate this. I understand that the Department of Health and Social Care is also working with NHS England to improve the detection, monitoring and treatment of atrial fibrillation, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Looking ahead, the Government recognises that tackling major conditions that cause ill-health - including heart conditions - provides an opportunity to improve the lives of millions of people. That is why a Major Conditions Strategy will be developed and published over the next year to outline how outcomes in six major condition areas will be improved, including cardiovascular diseases. A call for evidence, which sought views on priority areas for preventing and treating cardiovascular disease, has recently concluded and the strategy will be published in due course.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 7048

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY