

XX February 2016

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Health Secretary
Department for Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Dear Minister

I am writing to you to highlight my concerns regarding the lack of response to the Independent Review of Choice in End of Life (Choice Review)¹, and to express my support for the End of Life Coalition² in its campaign to implement the recommendations in the Choice Review.

As you will know, the Choice Review was commissioned by the previous government and published 26 February 2015. It is of course welcome that this Government has committed to improving choice and quality in end of life care, but I would be interested to learn what plans the Government has to respond to the Choice Review and to implement a national choice offer.

This week, the End of Life Coalition has produced a report, 'On the Brink, The Future of End of Life Care' to further highlight how the implementation of a national choice offer could support people's end of life care choices, as well as preventing money being spent unnecessarily on expensive hospital admissions. Almost 470,000 people died in 2014 and over 220,000³ of them died in hospital. However, the latest survey of bereaved carers shows us that only 3% of those who stated a preference wanted to die in hospital.⁴ This failure to deliver people's dying wish needs cannot go on.

This is a crucial opportunity to transform services, improve experience and ensure cost-effectiveness. I hope this letter will draw your attention to this critical matter, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Member of Parliament for [xxx]

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/choice-in-end-of-life-care>

² <http://endoflifecampaign.org/>

³ Office for National Statistics 2015, *Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered in England and Wales (Series DR)*, 2014. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcn%3A77-378961> (accessed January 2016)

⁴ Office for National Statistics. 2015. *National Survey of Bereaved People (VOICES)*, 2014.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcn%3A77-407293> (accessed January 2016)