



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

October 2018.

Dear Constituent,

**A Response to the Young Cancer Patient Travel Fund Campaign**

Thank you for contacting me about travel costs for young people receiving cancer treatment; I have ensured that my colleagues in the Department of Health are aware of the broader concerns you raise.

I appreciate how distressing it must be for young people, and their families, if they are diagnosed with cancer and it is vital that young people affected by this terrible disease get the care and support they need. Cancer can affect all areas of a person's life, including finances.

The Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme allows for patients (and in some circumstances their carers) to receive reimbursement for travel if they are in receipt of certain benefits or are on a low income, and if they have been referred to hospital or other NHS premises for specialist NHS treatment.

NHS England has stated that work is underway to review the service specifications for children and young people with cancer services. I understand this will provide an opportunity to consider how some aspects of the patient pathway may be provided more locally to reduce the travel burden for patients and their families. As healthcare is a devolved issue here in Scotland, the review work in question only applies to England and Wales – it would be for the Scottish Government to bring forward any similar processes in Scotland. I hope that the Scottish Government will consider action to ensure that Scotland does not fall behind England and Wales in this area.

I look forward to seeing the outcomes of the review in due course.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Alister Jack DL MP**  
**Dumfries and Galloway constituency.**

Please respond to:  
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