



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

September 2019.

Dear Constituent,

**A Response to the More Funding for Parkinson's Campaign**

Thank you for contacting me about Parkinson's disease. As you may be aware, health is a devolved area and therefore the responsibility of the Scottish Government.

People with Parkinson's disease must be able to access the necessary treatment to live a fulfilled and independent life. Parkinson's is the second most common degenerative disease after Alzheimer's, and about 30 people in Scotland are diagnosed with it every week. Although it is most associated with old age, one person in seven with Parkinson's is under 65. For this reason, I am pleased that my MSP colleagues passionately campaigned for the extension of free personal care to under-65s.

After the release of the Parkinson's UK report on the disease in Scotland, I share your concerns that the Scottish Government is not providing the level and quality of services and support that every person with Parkinson's deserves. It is alarming that about one in every 10 consultant posts in neurology and medicine for older people in Scotland is unfilled, with particular pressures in some areas meaning that the numbers of vacancies in some National Health Service boards are even worse.

It is unacceptable that the vast majority of boards are regularly unable to meet the 12-week target on waiting times for new out-patient appointments ahead of diagnosis. In July 2018, it took more than 42 weeks for 95 per cent of people who had been referred to see a neurologist in NHS Grampian, and the wait was almost 33 weeks in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

People who are living with Parkinson's are looking for the Scottish Government to set out how they will take forward improvements. It is vital that everyone who is diagnosed with this disease are confident that they will have access to the very best possible healthcare and support.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alister Jack".

**The Rt. Hon. Alister Jack MP**  
**Dumfries and Galloway constituency.**