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Rt Hon Caroline Julia Dinenage MP

House of Commons,

London

SW1A 0AA

27th August 2019

Dear Mrs Dinenage,

Recently I have learned that Dame Barbara Windsor has bravely written an open letter to our 77th UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. The letter urges the Government to take appropriate actions on dementia care. This gesture is very significant, as she suffers from Alzheimer's herself. In her open letter, Dame Barbara Windsor and her husband have said that many people with dementia are being let down by the system. The pair wants to make things fairer and to prevent the dementia sufferers missing out on care.

I must sadly admit that I share her point of view. In my opinion, the system of support is simply unjust. Patients who have conditions such as cancer have care funded by the NHS. But with dementia, the sufferers must spend their life savings on care. The average outlay is typically around £100,000.

But not only the unfairness of paying for dementia care has led me to write this letter to you.

I would like to take this opportunity and introduce myself. My name is Krzysztof Zadorozny and I am the Managing Director of Veritas Care Ltd. Our company specialises in providing high quality, affordable live-in care services. Over the past 8 years, we have served more than 20,000 Clients throughout Europe. We are currently introducing an innovative approach in caring to the UK market, developed through our years of experience in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. In general, native citizens of western countries are not necessarily interested in working as live-in caregivers. Therefore, most live-in caregiver in Germany or in the UK come from Poland or other Eastern European countries. By sourcing the caregiver we are able to lower the average care cost by 40% and, at the same time, provide an attractive salary to live-in care workers.

Why am I writing about this? Because I feel that I have to speak up before it is too late. Our company helps not only single families and seniors but all the communities that we operate in, offering affordable live-in care. Care workers from the EU are a great help for many seniors. And yet, there are plans to set a threshold of £30,000 for recruiting people from abroad. Wouldn't this rule decimate our care sector? Already there is a gap of about 90,000 between the number of care workers the country needs and the number of people working in the sector. And officially, about 20% of the social care workers come from abroad, out of which the majority from the EU. The actual number in live-in care sector is significantly higher. What is even more worrying, most caregivers in the care sector earn less than £30,000. I am certain that if the number of Europeans working in the UK social care sector falls drastically, the sector will suffer tremendously. Do we really want that to happen?



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From my point of view, the social care system has already enough problems to deal with, there is no need to generate new ones. I find it will create a big problem if the UK will limit the number of care workers by setting this unrealistic £30,000 threshold, which may lead to increased prices for care in private and social part of the sector.

I am very concerned that the social care market in the UK is complex enough and yet not properly regulated. With still no signs of the long-awaited green paper in sight, unfortunately, there are some postcodes in the country lacking care possibilities – the so-called ‘care deserts’. I am convinced that for such places, having an option of self-paid, but still affordable live-in care is a life-saver for many seniors. If this country has so rigid means-testing for state local government funding and so few are entitled to it, why limiting the affordable self-paid possibility?

I hope I am wrong with all the above concerns. I am aware that the immigration policy will undoubtedly change after Brexit. But at the same time, I believe, our country’s needs should be the most important for the Government. What is more important than the well-being of the most vulnerable and frail citizens? Considering the constant increase of life expectancy in the UK, shouldn’t we focus on health care, as this sector will definitely grow?

Therefore, I am appealing to you to make only wise decisions regarding all the elderly care-related matters, such as dementia tax and its controversies, care deserts, the Green Paper or £30,000 threshold. Especially for the latter, I believe there should be exceptions added specifically for the care workers, as without the EU employees, the care sector will, in my point of view, suffer a lot.

I would be more than happy to share my views in person. At the same time, I am aware this may not be possible. Therefore, I would appreciate your reply.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Most respectfully,

Krzysztof Zadorozny

Managing Director

Veritas Care Ltd