



Department  
of Health

From Steve Brine MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care

Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

Dr Sarah Wollaston  
Chair  
Health Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

12 OCT 2017

Congratulations on your reappointment to Chair of the Health Select Committee. The Committee has provided a valuable contribution to developing policies and I am sure will continue to do so.

I would particularly like to thank you and the Committee for your Inquiries and reports on childhood obesity, and most recently “Childhood obesity: follow-up”. We welcome the Inquiry’s recognition of the progress made in shifting the food and drinks market towards healthier choices since the launch of *Childhood Obesity: A Plan for Action* in August 2016.

As we have been clear, our plan marks an important step forward in tackling childhood obesity, but it is not the final word. As part of this ongoing process, and to coincide with the first anniversary of the launch of the plan, we announced a calorie reduction programme being led by PHE and £5 million investment in a new policy research unit on obesity whose role will include evaluating the plan and looking at social inequalities.

I know the General Election presented some challenges to the direction of policy and we have listened carefully to the views of stakeholders as these have continued to develop. In light of this ongoing work, it has not been possible to provide a full response to the Committee and I thank you for your patience during this delay. We are now clear in our direction and I can confirm will be responding formally to the Committee later this year.



Department  
of Health

*From Steve Brine MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care*

*Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS*

I hope this is agreeable.



**STEVE BRINE**