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**Directors of Adult Social Services
ENGLISH Local Authorities**

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Dear Colleagues,

Re: Cap on care costs

I wanted to write to let you know that the Minister of Care and Support has today issued the attached response to a letter from the Local Government Association calling for a delay in the implementation of the cap on care costs system. As you will know, the changes were due to come into force in April next year. However, in light of the genuine concerns on timing expressed by the LGA and many others during the recent consultation on draft regulations and guidance, the Government has taken the difficult decision to delay implementation until 2020.

I recognise that local authorities have already invested significant time and effort in preparing to implement these reforms and that this may come as a disappointment. However, I want to assure you that a clear commitment to introducing the cap in this Parliament remains in place and the preparatory work that has already been undertaken at both the national and local level will by no means have been wasted. Rather, the delay will allow time for this work to be developed more fully and for us to work to explore what more we can do to improve the overall offer on paying for care.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as we move forward over the coming weeks and months.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Rouse

Director General of Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships