

To the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Rt Hon James Murray,

Congratulations on your appointment as the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. Charities, campaigners and organisations working across maternity, baby loss and neonatal services, bereaved and harmed families and those working tirelessly across the maternity and neonatal sector are writing to you today to express our concerns following the departure of Wes Streeting as Health Secretary. We are directly appealing to you to continue the momentum in improving maternity and neonatal services. Over recent years, families affected by baby loss, traumatic births, avoidable maternal deaths and failures within maternity services have fought relentlessly to ensure their voices were finally listened to. Campaigners, charities and healthcare professionals have worked together to push maternity and neonatal safety higher up the national agenda.

Under Wes Streeting's leadership, many families finally began to feel seen.

While political positions may change, the devastating reality facing too many families across the UK does not.

This is about more than politics. It is about protecting progress, continuing vital work already underway, and ensuring bereaved and harmed families are not once again left feeling unheard. It must also mean accelerating action to prevent avoidable harm, improve safety and spare more families from experiencing trauma, loss and life long consequences.

The progress made and the work that must continue.

The announcement of a national maternity and neonatal investigation, alongside the appointment of Baroness Amos to lead the independent review, represented a hugely significant step forward for bereaved and harmed families across the country.

For many, it was the first genuine sign that systemic failings within maternity care would finally be addressed with the urgency, transparency and accountability families have long called for.

Alongside the investigation, important commitments were also made around:

- tackling maternal deaths and avoidable baby deaths
- improving safety and accountability within maternity services
- accelerating action to prevent avoidable maternal and baby harm across maternity and neonatal services
- addressing inequalities experienced by Black and Asian families and babies
- strengthening bereavement support for families
- improving triage and maternity safety systems
- establishing a National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce to help deliver long-term reform

Families across the UK placed hope in this momentum.

We are therefore urging you to publicly commit to ensuring this work continues without delay or disruption.

We are also asking you to commit to acting in full and without delay on the recommendations that emerge from Baroness Amos's review and to providing clear, continued national leadership on maternal and neonatal safety, including in maintaining your role as chair of the Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce.

This cannot become another review that fails to lead to meaningful action. Too many families have already paid the ultimate price for failings within maternity care. Too many parents continue to live with trauma, grief and unanswered questions.

Families deserve consistency, compassion and commitment from the government.

We ask the Government to:

- Fully protect the independence of Baroness Amos's investigation
- Act in full and without delay on the findings from the review
- Provide clear, continued national leadership on maternity and neonatal safety, including by continuing to chair the National Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce
- Continue engaging directly with bereaved families, charities, campaigners and harmed families
- Ensure maternity and neonatal safety remains a national priority
- Continue investment into safer staffing, bereavement care and accountability measures across maternity services
- Accelerate action to prevent avoidable harm, deaths and trauma across maternity and neonatal care

For families who have buried their babies, for parents living with birth trauma, and for those still seeking answers, this work is not political. It's vital.

It is personal.

It is urgent.

And it is lifesaving.

This work cannot be undone or forgotten. There has already been too much waiting. We urge you to continue this progress for those deeply affected.

Signed,

Leila Hobart - Founder - Little Wings of Hope

Amneet Graham - Founder/Chair - Willow's Rainbow Box

Aimee Green - Luna's Fund

Racheal Crane - Max's Legacy -Baby Loss Support and Aftercare

Sian Ness, Bereavement Consultant - CuddleCot

Alicia Burnett - Black Baby Loss Awareness C.I.C

Asiya Dawood- South Asian Babyloss Awareness Week

Bob McGurrell - 4Louis

Dr Kara Davey- Kara Clinical Psychologist in Sussex

Sharon Darke and Suzie Scofield - Footprints Baby Loss Twin & Triplet Support

Rachel Burrell- Ebony Bonds Bereavement Support CIC
Poppy Walker - Daphne & Friends CIC
Laura Buckingham and Bex Gunn - The Worst Girl Gang Ever Foundation
Laura Corcoran - Dignity Care
Lottie King - Leo's Neonatal
Chynna Carby - The Shia Family Dr Claire Pitt, Senior Clinical Psychologist, AFLoaT - Surrey Maternal Mental Health Service
Faye Hill, Abigail's Footsteps
Georgie Vincent - Finley James Fund
Pete Wallroth - Mummy's Star
Nafiza Anwar - Association of South Asian Midwives
Clea Harmer - Chief Executive, Sands
Leanne Turner Founder/CEO Aching Arms & Secretary Pregnancy and Baby Charities Network.
Jennifer Reid- Teddy's Wish
Samantha Collinge - Lead Bereavement Midwife- George Eliot Hospital Nuneaton and Co-author of the independent pregnancy loss review
Leanne Pether - Love Leo
Lianne and Chris Ruddle- Ezra's Mummy & Daddy
Nikki Wilson - Chief Executive of Maternal Mental Health Alliance (MMHA)
Dr Michael Bullock - President, Miles Mission
Karen Burgess - Petals Charity
Shakira Dixon-Williams - MI Story - Micaiah and Isaiah's mummy
Lucy Livesy - Ellie's Gift
Aramide Caunt - The Black Maternal Advocate Ltd
Heidi Eldridge, CEO, MAMA Academy
Jane Plumb - Group B Strep Support
Grace Bignell - Roseoessence
Lindsay Carpenter-Oliver - The Snowdrops Foundation
Laura Bridle
Ceri and Billy Key- Remember Rufus
Rhian Ferrovia McGowan-Reid - Milan's Movement
Jane Fisher, Director - Antenatal Results and Choices (ARC)
Jenny Ward, CEO - The Lullaby Trust
Keith Reed, CEO - Parent-Infant Foundation
Kath Abrahams - Chief Executive, Tommy's
Vicki Robinson - Chief Executive, The Miscarriage Association
Fergus Crow, CEO - Child Bereavement UK
Munira Oza, Chief Executive - The Ectopic Pregnancy Trust
Shauna Leven, CEO - Twins Trust
Christine Miller - Fiona Morrell
Jenni Barrett - A Sky Full of Hearts
Gemma Kybert - Founder of Oscar's Wish Foundation
Mel Scott - Towards Tomorrow Together
Katy Crabbe, CEO - ICP Support
Angela McConville, Chief Executive - NCT (National Childbirth Trust)
Judy Ledger, Founder and CEO - Baby Lifeline
Sarah Land, CEO & Co-Founder - Peeps Charity

Dr Chantal Fowler Lockey BEM HonDEd, HonDSc, HonF, HonDUniv, HonDHealth - The Foundation for Infant Loss Training

Kim Thomas, CEO - Birth Trauma Association

Sarah Falkland, Founder - Mission Preeclampsia

Manisha Sheth - Co-Founder - Support ME CIC

Dr Jessica Heron, CEO - Action on Postpartum Psychosis

Sarah Fishburn - Chair of the Pelvic Partnership

Penny Harger, Relationship Officer - Peeps HIE Charity

Julie Ellingford, Founder - 3B's support group

Donna Dunn, Trustee and Treasurer - Aching Arms

Caroline Lee-Davey, Chief Executive - Bliss

Richard Daniels, Chair & Co-Founder - Forever Stars

David Badcock, Chief Executive Officer - Borne Foundation

Georgia Stevenson, Sands and Tommy's joint policy unit

Kon-ick Sullivan and Laura Sullivan - We Are Together

Dr Zeshan Qureshi – Paediatrician - NHS

Jess Waugh and Lisa Quarticelli - Founders of Branch Baby Loss Network CIC

Zoe Clark-Coates MBE - Founder & CEO - Mariposa International. Co-Chair and Author the Independent PLR

Andrew Clark-Coates - Founder and CEO - Mariposa International

Abi Clarke - Chief Executive Officer - Miscarriage Support

Maria Viner - Chief Executive Officer - Mothers for Mothers

Tara Mounce - Executive Director - TimeNorfolk

Dr Clair Evans - Chair of the Prenatal, Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee - Royal College of Pathologists

Mari-Carmen Sanchez-Morris - Founder and CEO - Matresa

Sara Balmforth - Perinatal Midwife - Forget Me Not Children's Hospice

Rachel Corry - PPIE contributor to neonatal, pregnancy and bereavement charities

Sharon Luca – Founder - The Luca Foundation

Sarah and James Kennedy - parents of Oscar Kennedy

Dr Heather Robinson - Lecturer in Mental Health - Lancaster University

Josephine Hammick – bereaved mother

Laura-Rose Thorogood - CEO - Make Birth Better Carly Williams - Founder & CEO, Zephyr's

Catherine MacLennan - Founder - The Vilomah Foundation.

Professor Sophie Daniels - Institute of Contemporary Music

Louise Brodrick - Lead Bereavement Midwife at BHRUT

Julia Bueno - Psychotherapist

Helen Tunncliffe - Bran's Library

Jessica Burley - Jacob's Mama, Journey for Jacob Nick Price-Thompson - Barney's dad and baby loss campaigner. Director of Communications, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Colette Murphy – Advocate, AFA

Sophie Morgan - In the memory of Dexter who died avoidably 2018

Jennifer Elworthy - Career and Fertility Coach, Director of Engagement, Fertility Matters at Work

Jessica & Natalie Clasby-Monk - The Legacy of Leo The Melligan family - parents of George Barra Melligan

Angie Rice - NHS midwife

Lucinda Watkinson - service user
Chloe Hutchinson-Brown - Bereavement Lead - Twins Trust
Alison Morton - CEO - Institute of Health Visiting
Gemma Sainsbury - Mummy to Isabella and Sophie
Gillian Weaver MBE - Co-founder - Human Milk Foundation
Nicola Welsh – CEO - Held In Our Hearts
Dr Kerry Jones, Senior Lecturer in End-of-Life Care - The Open University.
Joanne Kondabeka – CEO - Pregnancy Options Centre (Chichester)
Lauren Hutton - Senior Midwifery Lecturer - University of Bedfordshire
Abbie Harris - Executive Director - Action on Pre-Eclampsia
Bex Walsh - Lead Bereavement Midwife - Royal United Hospitals Foundation Trust Bath
Ishbel Straker - Founder and CEO - Regulatory Justice Foundation
Jordan Russell - SANDS
Simon Berney-Edwards - Chair - Twins Trust
Zenab Barry - Canvas Bridge
Helena Morais, MNVP & founder Maila's Present