At the last Health and Social Care Select Committee you raised a question about breast screening and a concern about business rates retention. Below are my responses to both.

**Breast Screening**

Firstly, you asked if all the women who had not been invited for breast screening due to the incident announced by my predecessor earlier this year, have now been contacted.

The previous Secretary of State laid a WMS in the House on 4 June 2018 confirming that Public Health England had contacted all 195,565 affected women registered with a GP in England by 18 May 2018. In addition, all the affected women known to have moved to Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland were also written to by 1 June 2018.

The Department is working hard to understand what went wrong to prevent similar incidents happening in the future. As I said at health orals, I consider screening to be a core part of early intervention and I think we can both agree on that.

**Business Rates Retention**

You raised concerns that, if local authority public health functions are in future funded through retained business rates, local authorities with low income from business rates would have insufficient funds to deliver better health outcomes. I agreed to write with further information.

From 2013/14 local authorities in England have been able to retain 50% of the income they raise through business rates, and new funding baselines were created for
each individual local authority when this system was introduced. Local authorities that receive more in business rates income than their baseline funding level contribute through a “tariff” which is used to "top up" local authorities who receive less business rates income than their baseline funding level. For example, Kingston-Upon-Hull council will receive £37.5 million as a top-up in 2018/19.

The Government has been clear that under any future system there will continue to be redistribution of business rates between local authorities to take account of their relative needs. In recognition of concerns about the fairness of current funding distributions, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is currently reviewing the methodology which underpins the distribution of funding at Local Government Finance Settlements. This review has initially focused on those functions that are already devolved to local authorities and funded through the local government finance settlement. It has not yet considered functions funded through grants from central government which may be devolved, but will do so on a case by case basis.

I hope this response is helpful.

Yours ever,

MATT HANCOCK