Dear Simon,

**E-cigarettes response: follow-up**

I welcome much of the Government Response to my Committee’s Report on e-cigarettes. I understand that NHS England contributed to this Response and therefore we should not expect a separate response from you. Nonetheless, I would be grateful if you could provide some clarification to the Committee on one of our recommendations and the Response received.

In our Report, we concluded and recommended at paragraph 56 that:

> We are concerned that NHS England declined our invitation to give evidence on how it was working to encourage innovative solutions, such as e-cigarettes, to battle the worryingly high numbers of smokers amongst those with poor mental health. NHS England stated that it was unable to provide a representative to put in front of the Committee. NHS England explained that there was no one responsible centrally with “oversight” of e-cigarette policies amongst NHS mental health trusts, nor did NHS England do anything centrally to enforce any type of policy approach. NHS England should take a strong leadership role in ensuring that everything is done to reduce the numbers of smokers amongst those with poor mental health, as smoking is the single largest cause of premature mortality within this group. We also find it very concerning that there is not a dedicated person within NHS England responsible for implementing the Government’s Tobacco Control Plan. NHS England should as a matter of urgency ensure that such a position is created.

The Government Response stated:

> The Government broadly accepts this recommendation. NHS England is aware of its responsibilities within the Tobacco Control Plan. The Department of Health and Social Care has worked with NHS England to produce the Tobacco Control Plan Delivery Plan 2017-2022. The Delivery Plan will be closely monitored to ensure that the Government’s ambitions can be met.
From the Response it is unclear to us whether NHS England will implement this recommendation, and if it will how it will do so. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with information on:

- whether you will appoint a dedicated person within NHS England who has responsibility for implementing the Government’s Tobacco Control Plan?
  - (if yes) When will this person be appointed? Can you confirm that the post will be a new one and implementing the Plan will be that individual’s sole responsibility?
  - (if no) Why not? And how will you ensure that NHS England fully discharges its responsibilities with regard to the Tobacco Control Plan?

I would be grateful, if at all possible, if you could provide a response to this letter by Monday 14 January 2019.

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair