

Number 10 Support for Condemned to Silence

Since the launch of the report Prime Minister David Cameron has vowed to support people living with MND following the All-Party Parliamentary Group on MND's report on poor access for communication aids.

The Chair of the All Party Group Madeline Moon MP (Bridgend, Labour) attended the launch (on Tuesday 27 January) and then raised the issue at Prime Minister's Questions the following day.

She described the report as demonstrating that 'people with motor neurone disease are having grave problems accessing the funding that is available for communication support in England.

And then asked: "Will the Prime Minister meet with the Motor Neurone Disease Association to sort out why the delays are happening in NHS England, and will he agree to fund the communication support that the Association can provide - quickly and effectively - while the NHS gets its act in order, so that no one dies without being able to communicate their last thoughts to their loved ones?"

In response the Prime Minister said: "First of all, let me commend the honourable Lady for the work she's doing, and others across this House, on motor neurone disease. Anyone who's known someone who's suffered from motor neurone disease, and I've known people who have suffered from it, knows it is the most appalling, debilitating condition, and it's very, very difficult for families to cope with, so I will certainly look at the report that she has produced, and make sure that the proper meetings are held with the Department of Health so that everything we can do to support these people, and as she says allow them to communicate with their families up until the last moment, can be done."

You can watch the session here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b050zj2j/prime-ministers-questions-28012015>

(skip to 23 minutes 50 seconds)

Chris James, Director of External Affairs said: "It was a fantastic launch event with people living with MND having the chance to be heard both through the content of the report itself and in powerful speeches too.

"We were delighted to support Condemned to Silence and with the response at Westminster - with nearly 50 MPs represented.

"It is heartening that our persistent campaigning on behalf of people living with MND is paying off and to have had such a positive response from the Prime Minister is extremely encouraging. We look forward to working with the Department of Health to make sure that in the future people with MND will not die without a voice."