

Debate Pack

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By ,
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General debate on dementia research in the UK

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1 Background

A general debate on dementia research in the UK will take place in the Commons Chamber on 10 February 2022. The topic was determined by the Backbench Business Committee and the debate will be opened by Debbie Abrahams MP.

1.1 What is dementia?

Dementia is not a single disease; it is a general term used to describe the deterioration of cognitive functioning.¹ Symptoms of dementias can vary in severity and progress through multiple stages.² They include difficulties with thinking, problem-solving, remembering and making decisions, to the extent that daily activities can become challenging. Some people with dementia may also find it hard to control their emotions and aspects of their personality may change.

There are multiple types of dementia (such as Alzheimer’s disease – the most commonly diagnosed) and symptoms may differ depending on the type.

- For further information see Alzheimer's Research UK, [Types of dementia](#), not dated

1.2 Prevalence and cost

The Alzheimer’s Society estimates that there are more than 900,000 people aged over 65 years with dementia in the UK. The figure is projected to rise to over 1 million people by 2025 and to 1.6 million by 2040.³ Globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that “more than 55 million people live with dementia worldwide”, with nearly 10 million new cases every year.⁴ While age is a strong risk factor for dementia, it is not an inevitable part of aging. Dementia is also diagnosed in people under 65 years; an estimated 42,000 people under 65 have dementia in the UK.⁵

NHS England has highlighted the “considerable economic cost” associated with dementia, which it estimated at around £23 billion a year.⁶ A more recent

¹ US NIH National Institute on Aging, [What Is Dementia? Symptoms, Types, and Diagnosis | National Institute on Aging](#), July 2021

² World Health Organization (WHO), [Dementia](#), 2 September 2021

³ Alzheimer’s Society, [How many people have dementia in the UK?](#) 13 December 2021

⁴ World Health Organization (WHO), [Dementia](#), 2 September 2021

⁵ Alzheimer’s Society, [Facts for the media | Alzheimer’s Society](#), not dated (accessed 8 February 2022)

⁶ NHS England, [Dementia](#), not dated (accessed 8 February 2022)

estimate, together with a breakdown of costs, is set out in a research study published in the [International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry](#) in 2019:

- Total annual cost of dementia in England is estimated to be £24.2 billion in 2015, of which 42% (£10.1 billion) is attributable to unpaid care.
- Social care costs (£10.2 billion) are three times larger than health care costs (£3.8 billion).
- £6.2 billion of the total social care costs are met by users themselves and their families, with £4.0 billion (39.4%) funded by government.
- Total annual costs of mild, moderate, and severe dementia are £3.2 billion, £6.9 billion, and £14.1 billion, respectively.
- Average costs of mild, moderate, and severe dementia are £24 400, £27 450, and £46 050, respectively, per person per year.⁷

Currently, there is no cure for dementia, though there are [medicines and treatments](#) that can help manage some of the symptoms.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that the leading cause of death in December 2021 was “dementia and Alzheimer’s disease in both England (accounting for 12.4% of all deaths) and Wales (12.1% of all deaths)”.⁸

⁷ Raphael Wittenberg et al, [The costs of dementia in England](#), Int J Geriatr Psychiatry, 2019 Jul; 34(7): 1095–1103

⁸ ONS, [Monthly mortality analysis, England and Wales: December 2021](#), 21 January 2022

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Government policy

The Government has made multiple policy commitments relating to dementia. An overview can be found in the Commons Library briefing on [Dementia: policy, services and statistics overview](#) (May 2021). Two key policy documents are the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia and the Conservative Party Manifesto 2019. The [NHS Long Term Plan](#), published on 7 January 2019, also commits the NHS in England to continuing to improve the care provided to people with dementia, whether they are in a hospital, care home, or their own home.

2.1

Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia

The [Challenge on Dementia 2020](#), published in February 2015, set out what the UK Government wanted to achieve by 2020 so that England would become:

- the best country in the world for dementia care and support and for people with dementia, their carers and families to live
- the best place in the world to undertake research into dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases.⁹

Some of the key objectives of the Challenge were:

- Equal access to diagnosis for everyone.
- GPs playing a lead role in ensuring coordination and continuity of care for people with dementia
- Every person diagnosed with dementia having meaningful care following their diagnosis
- All NHS staff having received training on dementia appropriate to their role.
- Improved public awareness and understanding of the factors, which increase the risk of developing dementia and how people can reduce their risk by living more healthily.

In March 2016, the Department of Health published an [Implementation Plan](#) with details on how the Challenge on Dementia 2020 would be met. A [review of Phase 1 of the Challenge](#) was published in February 2019

⁹ Department of Health and Social Care, Cabinet Office, and Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, [Prime Minister's challenge on dementia 2020](#), 21 February 2015

Research commitments

The Challenge on Dementia 2020 contained a commitment to spend £300 million on dementia research over the five years to March 2020 while also expanding the dementia research workforce and establishing an “international dementia institute” in England. The Government stated that its funding commitment was delivered a year early, with £344 million spent on dementia research over the four years to 31 March 2019.¹⁰

The [UK Dementia Research Institute](#) (UK DRI) was launched in 2017, following £290 million from its “founding funders the Medical Research Council (MRC), Alzheimer’s Society and Alzheimer’s Research UK”.¹¹ It has a hub at University College, London, together with six centres at Universities across Scotland, Wales and the South and East of England.

2.2

Conservative Party Manifesto 2019

The [Conservative Party Manifesto 2019](#), published ahead of the December 2019 General Election, pledged that finding a cure for dementia would be one of the Government’s “biggest collective priorities” and would “include doubling research funding into dementia and speeding up trials for new treatments”.¹² Often referred to as the “Dementia Moonshot”, organisations including [Alzheimer’s Research UK](#) and [Alzheimer’s Society](#) have called on the Government to deliver on its manifesto pledge. A response to a Parliamentary Question, answered in January 2022, stated that the Government was:

working on ways to significantly boost further research on dementia to support the delivery of the dementia moonshot. A new dementia strategy, which will set out our plans on dementia for England for future years, will be published in 2022. The strategy will include our ambitions for dementia research and increasing dementia research funding.¹³

Autumn Budget and Spending Review, 2021

Following Autumn Budget and Spending Review in October 2021, several organisations expressed concern that no reference was made to funding the Dementia Moonshot pledge. The Director of the UK Dementia Research Institute, Professor Bart de Strooper, described its absence as a “major blow to UK neuroscientists racing to find cures for these devastating diseases - not to mention the 885,000 people living with dementia in the UK, their families, friends and carers”.¹⁴ Similarly, Alzheimer’s Research UK described the

¹⁰ [PQ 144985](#) [on Dementia: Research], 3 February 2021

¹¹ [About us | UK DRI: UK Dementia Research Institute](#), not dated (accessed 8 February 2022)

¹² Conservative Party Manifesto, [Get Brexit Done](#), 2019

¹³ [PQ 92934](#) [on Dementia: Research], 5 January 2022

¹⁴ UK Dementia Research Institute, [Government Spending Review: support for innovation, but missing the promised Dementia Moonshot](#), 27 October 2021

Government as “missing the opportunity to deliver on their pledge to double funding for dementia research”.¹⁵

In January 2022, the [Alzheimer’s Society](#) highlighted a response to a Parliamentary Question, tabled by Chi Onwurah (Lab), indicating that government spending¹⁶ on dementia research fell from £112.9 million in 2018/19 to £104.7 million in 2019/20.¹⁷

¹⁵ Alzheimer’s Research UK, [Spending Review a missed opportunity for dementia research](#), 27 October 2021

¹⁶ Comprising spending by the National Institute for Health Research and UK Research and Innovation.

¹⁷ [PQ 94366](#) [on Dementia: Research], 5 January 2022

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All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Dementia: Fuelling the Moonshot report

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Dementia is co-chaired by Baroness Greengross and Debbie Abrahams MP and operates in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society. Its report – [Fuelling the Moonshot: Unleashing the UK's potential](#) (opens PDF) – was published in September 2021, following an inquiry over the summer, and examined the issues currently faced by those working in dementia research. Its overarching recommendation focused on accelerating the Government's delivery of the Dementia Moonshot:

This report's central recommendation is for the Government to deliver on its manifesto commitment and fund the Dementia Moonshot as soon as possible, working with stakeholders to establish a timetable for this funding to be brought forward. Providing this promised funding will be crucial to the Government's aims to level up the UK and make it a science superpower, as well as to the retention of the best and brightest researchers, including early career researchers.¹⁸

In addition to this central recommendation, the APPG made seven further recommendations to the Government relating to dementia research:

- Direct Moonshot funding towards the development of novel methods for early diagnosis.
- Entrench the UK's global leadership in biomedical and translational dementia research by confirming appropriate funding for the UK Dementia Research Institute for the next 10 years.
- Expand the Alzheimer's Society's Centres of Excellence model by introducing 3 new centres that will focus on some of the biggest challenges in dementia research.
- Use the Moonshot to establish a specific fund of £40m to support both clinical and preclinical postdoctoral research positions and talent retention in dementia research.
- Develop a Longitude Prize for dementia which would support the development of novel technologies.
- Work with Join Dementia Research (JDR) and NHS authorities to maximise the success of JDR by moving the programme to an opt out model and addressing data gaps by integrating JDR with electronic patient records.

¹⁸ All Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia, [Fuelling the Moonshot: Unleashing the UK's potential](#) (opens PDF), September 2021, p6

- The Office for Health Promotion to launch public information campaigns to explain how the public can take steps to reduce their dementia risk, and to generally increase people’s understanding of dementia.¹⁹

The APPG’s inquiry reported that research funding was low for dementia when compared to other conditions, such as cancer, which, it is stated, “attracts almost three times as much funding”.²⁰ Attention was also drawn in the report to the impact Covid-19 has had on charitable research funding which it described as being “decimated”.²¹

In response to a debate on the APPG’s report in the House of Lords in November 2021, the Government outlined both its recent spending on dementia research, as well as actions it was taking to accelerate progress in this area:

In 2019-20, the most recent year for which spending figures are available, the Government spent over £75 million on dementia and neurodegeneration research. We have committed to maintaining at least this baseline level of spending, which equates to spending £375 million over the next five years.

The £5 billion investment in health-related research and development announced in the 2021 spending review reflects the Government’s commitment to supporting research into the most pressing health challenges of our time. Clearly, dementia is way up that list. We are working across government to finalise the outcomes from the spending review and identify ways to significantly boost research on dementia to support the delivery of the moonshot. I am, and will be, speaking to colleagues across government about achieving this.

In the meantime, rather than just waiting, we have been taking positive actions so that we can prepare the ground. This includes the launch of a highlight notice on dementia within the National Institute for Health Research. This invites ambitious dementia research applications and signals to the community that dementia is a priority area for the NIHR. I am encouraged that dementia researchers are coming forward with proposals in response.²²

¹⁹ All Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia, [Fuelling the Moonshot: Unleashing the UK’s potential](#) (opens PDF), September 2021, p7

²⁰ Ibid p11

²¹ Ibid p14

²² [HL Deb, 16 November 2021, c232](#)

4 Parliamentary material

4.1 Debates

[Dementia: Fuelling the Moonshot](#)

HL Deb 16 Nov 2021 | Vol 816 cc225-235

[Ageing: Science, Technology and Healthy Living \(Science and Technology Committee Report\)](#)

HL Deb 20 Oct 2021 | Vol 815 cc59-108GC

[Dementia Action Week](#)

HC Deb 27 May 2021 | Vol 696 cc646-604

[Dementia: Covid-19](#)

HC Deb 12 Nov 2020 | Vol 683 cc484-508WH

4.2 Statements

Written Statement

[Department of Health and Social Care Update](#)

HC Deb 24 Oct 2019 | WS34

4.3 PQs

[Life Sciences](#)

Asked by: **Onwurah, Chi**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy of 11 January 2022, Official Report, column 415, what progress he has made on allocating the dementia research and development budget.

Answering member: **George Freeman | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

The Department for Health & Social Care will invest £375 million in neurodegenerative disease research over the next five years to fund projects into a range of diseases including dementia.

Following the Spending Review, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy is currently working to set detailed R&D budgets through to 2024/25. Further details of how this funding will be allocated will be announced in due course.

HC Deb 03 Feb 2022 | PQ 114739

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Jones, Ruth**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to increase funding for research into the prevention of dementia.

Answering member: **Maria Caulfield | Department of Health and Social Care**

We are investing £375 million in neurodegenerative disease research over the next five years, including dementia and prevention. In March 2021, the National Institute for Health Research issued an invitation for research proposals, including those with a focus on dementia prevention. We will be setting out our plans on dementia and research in England for future years in 2022.

HC Deb 26 Jan 2022 | PQ 110586

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Onwurah, Chi**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 5 January 2022 to Question 94366 on Dementia: Research, if he will publish all available figures for dementia spending in 2020-21.

Answering member: **George Freeman | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

Figures for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Medical Research Council (MRC) will be available in the coming months.

<i>Government spend on dementia research 2020-21</i>	
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)	£8,025,232.10
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)	£1,500,000
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)	£11,477,620

Please note that BBSRC provided an estimated figure for dementia research based on their broad portfolio of underpinning relevance (£29m in 2020/21).

HC Deb 14 Jan 2022 | PQ 101715

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Onwurah, Chi**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of the £375 million fund for neurodegenerative disease research will be spent on dementia.

Answering member: **Maria Caulfield | Department of Health and Social Care**

The Government will provide this funding through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The NIHR and UKRI rely on researchers submitting high-quality applications to access funding, therefore specific details of allocations are not currently available. All applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the importance to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality.

HC Deb 10 Jan 2022 | PQ 96878

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Onwurah, Chi**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how much funding the Government is planning to invest in dementia research in the financial year 2022-23.

Answering member: **George Freeman | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

As we announced in November, the Government will invest £375 million in neurodegenerative disease research over the next five years to fund projects into a range of diseases including dementia.

HC Deb 06 Jan 2022 | PQ 94367

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Onwurah, Chi**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how much the Government has invested in dementia research (a) since 2018, (b) in the financial year ended 5th April 2021, and (c) in the current financial year.

Answering member: **George Freeman | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

Government spending on dementia

£m	2018-19	2019-2020
National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)	£31.6	£29
Medical Research Council (MRC)	£45.2	£42.1
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)	£6.1	£4.6
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBBSRC) on neuroscience	£30	£29
Total	£112.9	£104.7

Figures for the current financial year 2021/22 not yet available.

HC Deb 05 Jan 2022 | PQ 94366

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Debbonaire, Thangam**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what the timetable is for allocating additional funding for dementia research.

Answering member: **Maria Caulfield | Department of Health and Social Care**

The Government has committed to invest £375 million in neurodegenerative disease research over the next five years to fund projects into a range of diseases including dementia. This funding will be provided through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The NIHR and UKRI rely on researchers submitting high-quality applications to access funding therefore details of allocations and timescales are not currently available.

All applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the importance of the topic to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality.

A new dementia strategy, which will set out our plans on dementia for England for future years, will be published in 2022. The strategy will include our ambitions for dementia research.

HC Deb 17 Dec 2021 | PQ 92976

Brain: Research

Asked by: **Whitford, Dr Philippa**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how much the Government has spent on research into (a) dementia prevention and (b) brain health in each of the last three years; and what plans he has to increase funding for research in those areas.

Answering member: **Maria Caulfield | Department of Health and Social Care**

Funding for dementia research is allocated via the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The following table shows spending on research into dementia prevention by each organisation in each of the last three years. Spending by the MRC in 2020/21 is not yet available.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
MRC	£10.8 million	£6.7 million	N/A
ESRC	£0.7 million	£0.7 million	£1.1 million
NIHR	£1.8 million	£1.5 million	£1.7 million
Total	£13.3 million	£8.9 million	£2.8 million

The following table shows spending on research into 'brain health' in each of the last three years. Figures for the MRC's spend reflect research into neurodegeneration, epilepsy and stroke which is directly relevant to brain health research, as the MRC does not have a specific brain health research portfolio. Spending by the MRC in 2020/21 is not yet available.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
MRC	£71.1 million	£68.1 million	N/A
ESRC	£0.1 million	£0.2 million	£0.4 million
NIHR	£3.9 million	£5.8 million	£5.4 million
Total	£75.1 million	£74.1 million	£5.8 million

The Government has committed to invest £375 million in neurodegenerative disease research over the next five years to fund projects into a range of diseases, including dementia. We will be setting out our plans on dementia

for England for future years in 2022. This will include our ambitions for dementia research.

HC Deb 16 Dec 2021 | PQ 90887

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Olney, Sarah**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to increase funding for research into dementia.

Answering member: **Gillian Keegan | Department of Health and Social Care**

We have committed £375 million for research into neurodegenerative disease over the next five years on projects into a range of diseases, including dementia. We will be setting out our plans on dementia for England for future years in 2022. This will include our ambitions for dementia research.

HC Deb 07 Dec 2021 | PQ 84441

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Mishra, Navendu**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of the £95m committed to the Office for Life Sciences for the delivery of the Life Sciences Vision will be allocated to dementia research.

Answering member: **Maria Caulfield | Department of Health and Social Care**

The Office for Life Sciences has been provided with £95 million for priority healthcare projects on cancer, obesity and mental health and access and uptake of cutting-edge innovations in the National Health Service.

While this will not be directly allocated to research in dementia, funding will continue from the Medical Research Council and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). This includes £375 million announced by the NIHR for research into neurodegenerative diseases on 14 November.

HC Deb 25 Nov 2021 | PQ 76850

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Onwurah, Chi**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to make the UK the world leader in dementia research.

Answering member: **Edward Argar | Department of Health and Social Care**

The United Kingdom has a number of world leading organisations focused on dementia research including the UK Dementia Research Institute, which focuses on basic and translation science, the National Institute for Health Research's Dementia Translational Research Collaboration which delivers world-leading research translating advances in discovery science into the clinic and Join Dementia Research, to increase participation in research. The Department is a founding partner of the international Dementia Discovery Fund, supported by £250 million of venture capital backing commercial ventures trying innovative new approaches to dementia. We will be setting out our plans for dementia research in England in future years in due course.

HC Deb 25 Oct 2021 | PQ 58846

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Dhesi, Mr Tanmanjeet Singh**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he plans to increase funding to support dementia research.

Answering member: **Maria Caulfield | Department of Health and Social Care**

We are currently working on ways to significantly increase further research on dementia at all stages including medical and care interventions. The Department funds research on health and social care through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The usual practice of NIHR is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics. The NIHR welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health including dementia. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the importance of the topic to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality.

HC Deb 12 Oct 2021 | PQ 51024

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Whitford, Dr Philippa**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to encourage diverse participation in dementia research.

Answering member: **Edward Argar | Department of Health and Social Care**

In partnership with the Alzheimer's Society, Alzheimer's Scotland and Alzheimer's Research UK, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) delivers Join Dementia Research (JDR), an online platform recruiting people into dementia research studies, which is open to all who wish to participate. Through the Innovations in Clinical Trial Design and Delivery for the Under-served programme, the NIHR is actively seeking to improve participation in research by providing resources and examples of good practice to support researchers seeking to engage with and include under-served groups.

HC Deb 15 Sep 2021 | PQ 45141

[Dementia: Research and Social Services](#)

Asked by: **Hayes, Helen**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding allocated to (a) research into dementia treatment and (b) dementia care.

Answering member: **Helen Whately | Department of Health and Social Care**

There has not been a recent assessment of funding allocated to research into dementia or dementia care. The Government remains strongly committed to supporting research into dementia and we are currently working on ways to significantly boost further research on dementia at all stages on the translation pathway. The Department funds research on health and social care through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The usual practice of NIHR is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics. The NIHR welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health including dementia.

Services for dementia are the responsibility of local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). However, NHS England would expect CCGs to commission services based on local population needs and taking account of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines.

HC Deb 10 Sep 2021 | PQ 41057

[Dementia: Research](#)

Asked by: **Hayes, Helen**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps the Government is taking to invest in and encourage research into new treatment for dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Answering member: **Helen Whately | Department of Health and Social Care**

United Kingdom (UK) researchers are at the forefront of global efforts to find a cure or a disease-modifying treatment by 2025. The 2020 Dementia Challenge commitment to spend £300 million on dementia research over five years, was delivered a year early with £344 million spent by 2019. Further research includes the £190 million UK Dementia Research Institute with a focus on basic science, the £43 million Dementias Platform UK supporting experimental medicine studies and the National Institute for Health Research's (NIHR) Dementia Translational Research Collaboration, which brings together industry, academia and charities to deliver research.

The Department is a founding partner of the international Dementia Discovery Fund, backing commercial ventures trying innovative new approaches to dementia. In March 2021, the NIHR launched a highlight notice on dementia which invited proposals for research, including meeting the needs of underserved communities.

HC Deb 10 Sep 2021 | PQ 41056

Dementia: Research

Asked by: **Cooper, Rosie**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on dementia research; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: **Edward Argar | Department of Health and Social Care**

No specific assessment has been made. However, the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) published a framework in May 2020 to support the restarting of research, including dementia research, paused due to COVID-19 which is available at the following link:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/restart-framework/24886>

HC Deb 20 Apr 2021 | PQ 178931

Dementia: Medical Treatments

Asked by: **Jenkyns, Andrea**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department has taken to support the global goal of developing a cure or major disease-modifying treatment for dementia by 2025.

Answering member: **Helen Whately | Department of Health and Social Care**

United Kingdom researchers are at the forefront of global efforts to find a cure or a disease-modifying treatment by 2025. The 2020 Dementia Challenge commitment to spend £300 million on dementia research over five years was

delivered a year early, with £344 million spent over four years. Significant elements in research are the £190 million UK Dementia Research Institute with a focus on basic science, the £43 million Dementias Platform UK supporting experimental medicine studies, and the National Institute for Health Research Translational Collaboration – Dementia, which brings together industry, academia and charities to deliver research from which patients will benefit.

HC Deb 16 Feb 2021 | PQ 149281

5 News items and further reading material

5.1 News items

The Times

[Dementia twice as likely with two chronic illnesses](#)

03 February 2022

The Telegraph

[How to keep your brain healthy, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia and myths about them](#)

27 January 2022

Medical News Today

[Dementia cases set to triple by 2050](#)

12 January 2022

Sky News

[Global dementia cases could triple by 2050 unless 'risk factors' are addressed, study finds](#)

7 January 2022

BBC News Online

[Dementia care village approved for Haverhill in Suffolk](#)

5 November 2021

The Guardian

[More than 41m dementia cases globally are undiagnosed – study](#)

21 September 2021

The Independent

[Support for dementia research at all-time high as Covid pandemic inspires involvement](#)

14 September 2021

The Telegraph

[Pandemic sets back hunt for Alzheimer's cure by 10 years](#)

12 September 2021

The Times

[Dementia killing more women than Covid-19](#)

08 August 2021

The Guardian

[Football should consider eliminating heading, dementia expert says](#)

2 August 2021

5.2

Further reading

Press release

[Alzheimer's Society responds to news government spending on dementia research has decreased](#)

11 January 2022

Press release

[Government to invest £375 million in neurodegenerative disease research](#)

14 November 2021

Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, London School of Economics

[Projections of older people with dementia and costs of dementia care in the United Kingdom, 2019–2040](#)

November 2019

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmhallparty/211229/dementia.htm>

UK Dementia Research Institute: <https://ukdri.ac.uk/>

Alzheimer's Research UK: <https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/>

Dementia UK: <https://www.dementiauk.org/>

Alzheimer's Society: <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/>

Dementia Research UK: <https://demruk.org/>

DEEP the UK Network of Dementia Voices:

<https://www.dementiavoices.org.uk/>

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