

From the Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Secretary of State for Health



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The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP
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- 6 APR 2010

Dear Tessa,

Thank you for your letter of 18 March enclosing an example of correspondence you have received from a number of your constituents about Early Day Motion 908 on the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee's report on homeopathy.

I would firstly like to explain that the Science and Technology Committee exists to ensure that Government policy and decision-making are based on good scientific advice and evidence. Members of the Committee are MPs from the Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and independent parties.

The Committee initially wrote to the Government on a number of topics and asked what its policy is on each, and on what evidence that policy is based. The Government replied and, having considered the responses, the Committee selected homeopathy for its second Evidence Check.

As your constituents will be aware, a range of people from relevant public and independent organisations gave evidence to the Committee at the two hearings. However, we are not in a position to comment on the Committee's handling of the hearing as it operates independently from Government.

The report from the Committee was published on 22 February and we will consider its findings and recommendations in detail. We are aiming to provide a full response in due course and our response will be publicly available.

I hope this reply clarifies the Government's position on this matter.

Best wishes,


ANDY BURNHAM