



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

March 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in my capacity as chair of the Westminster Autism Commission about a diagnosis and support survey we are launching this week.

I started the Westminster Autism Commission in 2015 to bring together academics, healthcare professionals, advocates and self-advocates working on autism policy. Together, we aim to research issues that matter to the autistic community and produce recommendations for government. My colleagues and I in Parliament use the commission's reports to campaign for policies which give autistic people a better quality of life.

Our next report will focus on the support offered before, during and after an autism diagnosis. We have launched this survey because we want to hear directly from autistic people and their families about their experiences of a diagnosis and whether the support they were offered met their needs.

The responses to the survey will be vital in shaping the focus of our report. The common themes that emerge will determine the questions the commission puts to government and healthcare bodies in the next phase of research. We want to ensure these questions are grounded in issues that matter to autistic people and their families, and that their voices are heard by policymakers.

If you are able to do so, I would be very grateful if you could circulate the online survey with your networks to give them a chance to feed into this research. The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete and has been designed in partnership with the Centre for Applied Autism Research at the University of Bath. The link is here:

https://bathpsychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aVkiz5t03vE5Hts.

Thank you in advance for any support you are able to lend us in promoting our survey. We hope that the resulting report will play a key part in improving support and service provision for the autistic community.

Yours faithfully,

Barry Sheerman MP