

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th November 2016

Dear Constituent,

RE: AGE RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION

Thank you for contacting me about research into age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

AMD currently affects more than 600,000 people in the UK and is the leading cause of vision loss. I agree that research is vital in this area to help find a cure for sight loss.

I am pleased that investment in eye-related research by the Department of Health's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) increased from £7.1 million in 2009/10 to £18.5 million in 2014/15.

As a major part of its investment in this field, the NIHR has recently awarded £19 million over five years from April 2017 to the NIHR biomedical research centre at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and University College London.

Other major NIHR investment includes a £2.2 million study of early detection of neo-vascular age-related macular degeneration.

The usual practice of the NIHR is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. The NIHR welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including eye care. 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. In all disease areas, the amount of NIHR funding depends on the volume and quality of scientific activity.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.