



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Barry Haslam

Our Ref: KHM/HASL02003/02110332

23 August 2011

Dear Mr Haslam

Thank you for your recent e-mails of 31st July, 1st August, 7th August, 17th August, 18th August, 22nd August and 23rd August regarding addiction to prescribed benzodiazepines.

I have tabled two written parliamentary questions on research into people affected by brain damage as a result of excessive and long-term use of legally prescribed benzodiazepines. As soon as I receive replies, I will ensure you receive copies.

I have also written to both John Healey MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Health, and Diane Abbott MP, Shadow Public Health Minister asking for their support on this issue.

In addition, I have written to Dr Heath at the Royal College of General Practitioners regarding prescribing guidelines for benzodiazepines.

I have not yet received a response from Anne Milton to my letter of 28th July; however, 20 working days have not yet elapsed. Should I have not received a reply by the end of the week, I will chase her office up. I want to see her response to that letter before asking further questions on the attendees, agenda and date of the roundtable meeting scheduled for the autumn.

As soon as I have any further information for you, I will be in touch again.

Yours sincerely

DEBBIE ABRAHAMS MP
Oldham East and Saddleworth