



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

13 December 2017

Dear Professor Asthwell

Thank you for your letter of 5 October on how the UK can build on its strengths in technology, design and data to better support an ageing population.

Your letter provided a powerful summary of the case for doing more in this area, not only to ensure that we have quality products and services for people with care needs and their families and carers, but also so that we capitalise on the economic opportunities that ageing brings if we are creative and innovative in our approach.

The Government fully agrees with you on the importance of supporting people to remain independent and well as they age, and is keen to work with the care sector and wider industry to transform products and services to better meet the needs of older people.

To make this a success will require close collaboration between the Government, industry, local government and the voluntary sector, and I agree with your conclusions that successful scale innovation will require a range of players to work together – nationally and locally.

The analysis provided in your letter has informed the Government's thinking about ageing and care reform, and I am pleased that the Industrial Strategy White Paper has identified ageing as one of our Grand Challenges. As you recommended, this Grand Challenge is to be underpinned by dedicated funding through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. You will also be aware that the Government has committed to a Green Paper on reform of care and support, to be published by next summer.

Through the Industrial Strategy and the Care and Support Green Paper we will be taking forward work on the other recommendations in your letter, working with a range of stakeholders to consider how we can drive forward with this work at pace.

To support the policy development for the Green Paper, and as we shape the Ageing Grand Challenge, I would welcome the continued involvement of the Council for Science and Technology. I have asked officials working on this agenda to continue to engage with you on this.

I am copying this letter to the First Secretary of State, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Secretary of State for Health, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Thank you, once again, to the Council for this valuable contribution to this important issue.

Your sincerely


Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell DBE DL