

Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

31 October 2019

Dear Andrea Leadsom,

Re: Proposals for Neonatal Pay and Leave

On behalf of the British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM), I would like, further to the consultation, to express our delight that the Government is considering financial support for parents of babies admitted to neonatal units.

As the leading UK organisation for perinatal professionals, BAPM advocates for all babies and their families. Our members witness daily the anguish of new parents whose baby (or babies) require(s) neonatal care, and we are aware that this situation places a huge financial burden on all too many families at a most stressful time. We work closely with Bliss and other family support organisations, and endorse all of their efforts to improve services for families of sick and preterm babies. There is no doubt whatsoever that being able to facilitate family presence on the neonatal unit is hugely beneficial, even to the tiniest babies.

As a neonatal consultant working in Scotland I have seen first-hand the enormous benefit brought to families by the Scottish Government Neonatal Expenses Fund launched in 2018; how wonderful that the UK Government is now also looking at direct financial support for families in this situation.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Helen Mactier MBChB, MD, MRCP (UK), FRCPCH
President of the British Association of Perinatal Medicine

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Princess Royal Maternity
President Scottish Paediatric Society
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