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Mr Philip George  
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3<sup>rd</sup>

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Dear Mr George,

Thank you for your letter of 11 January to the former Minister for Disabled People regarding support for students who contract a life-threatening or terminal illness. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I would like to assure you that while it might seem like progress has stalled since your meeting in June last year with Sarah Newton, officials have been working on a solution to the issues raised by the Rob George Foundation.

As you are aware, the Department currently has special arrangements for people with terminal illness and those who require cancer treatments. However, we do acknowledge that these arrangements will not be suitable for some individuals, in particular students, with acute illnesses that may mean that they are not eligible for support from the welfare system.

On 19 January, Will Quince MP met with Departmental officials to discuss this issue on your behalf. The meeting was productive and he has since met with me on 14 February to discuss support for students who are seriously ill.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we take your concerns seriously and are actively exploring all options to address this challenging and complex issue.

Best wishes,  


Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS