

Statement on the need to Invest in SLT - 27 October 2025

This statement is issued on behalf of Mikey Akers, Louisa Akers, Francesca Beard, Samantha Berry, Dave Harford, Georgia Leckie, Karen Massey, Sharon Oliphant, Gillian Rudd, Pam Slater, and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.*

Nine months ago today (27 October) the [House of Commons debated the Invest in SLT petition](#).

We were delighted that [our briefing for the debate was supported by over 40 organisations](#) and by the very powerful contributions from MPs of all parties calling on the Government to increase investment in services and better plan for the speech and language therapy workforce.

We were also encouraged by the Government's response and by the pledge the Government made to the Invest in SLT team in March that they would work with us on an action plan to tackle the issues affecting access to speech and language therapy.

We regret that seven months on that action plan has not yet appeared. So, today, and with the Budget on 26 November in sight, we are calling on the Government to do two things:

- 1) Ensure that the forthcoming Budget provides sufficient resources to the Department of Health and Social Care, the Department for Education, and other relevant Government Departments, so they can increase investment in speech and language therapy.
- 2) Publish the speech and language therapy action plan which they discussed with us in March.

People of all ages with communication disability, difficulty, or difference, and those with eating, drinking, and swallowing difficulties, and their families and carers have already waited too long for the barriers to accessing speech and language therapy to be removed. They should not have to wait any longer.

Working with you, we will do all we can to make things better for people with communication and/or swallowing needs. But we need the Government to act – and to act now. Those we work with and represent deserve no less.

* Mikey Akers is an advocate and campaigner. He tabled the petition and is the founder of Mikey's Wish Foundation. Louisa Akers, Dave Harford, Georgia Leckie, Sharon Oliphant, and Pam Slater are parents. Samantha Berry is an adult who has had speech and language therapy. Francesca Beard, Karen Massey, and Gillian Rudd are speech and language therapists. Along with the RCSLT, they make up the Invest in SLT home-team.