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To: The Department of Health Public Health and Policy Strategy Unit	Our reference:	
	Your reference:	
	Date:	27 August 2015

Dear Sir or Madam

Consultation on Local Authority Public Health Allocations 2015/16 – London Councils Response

I am pleased to attach London Councils' response to the consultation "Local Authority public health allocations 2015/16 – in year savings".

London Councils is a cross party, pan London organisation which works on behalf of our members – the 32 London boroughs, the City of London, the Metropolitan Police Authority and the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority. We are committed to fighting for more resources for London and getting the best possible deal for London's 33 local authorities. We develop policy, lobby government and others and run a range of services all designed to make life better for Londoners.

London Councils welcomes the opportunity to express our views as part of the consultation to revise public health allocations in year 2015/16.

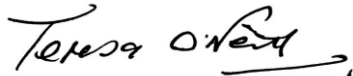
Key issues addressed in London Councils response are:

- London Councils do not have a preferred option for making the £200 million reduction in public health budgets and we argue below that public health funding should not be cut. If cuts are made, all boroughs will be hit hard, whichever option is chosen.
- Identifying financial savings in public health may give short-term benefits to the public purse, but has a significant impact on health and will therefore increase costs in the long-term. A cut to prevention and public health in Local Authorities does not save money in the long-term, nor can it be achieved without increasing demand and costs for the NHS and Adult Social Care.
- London will be impacted disproportionately if public health budgets are cut. More than a fifth of the national cuts will be made in London, with 30 per cent higher cuts per head for the average Londoner compared with England as a whole

- London has some of the most deprived communities in the country and cuts to public health will disproportionately affect those who are most deprived. Research also suggests that flat rate cuts will hit hardest on boroughs with a higher concentration of residents from black and ethnic minority backgrounds
- If cuts have to be made, individual authorities will have views on whether any option is better than any other in their particular circumstances, and will submit individual responses making these points.
- London Councils would urge that any decision on whether and how cuts are to be made is communicated to local authorities as soon as possible, to try to lessen the effects of continuing doubt and uncertainty in public health provision.

London Councils is keen to be involved in any further discussions going forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa O'Neill".

Councillor Teresa O'Neill, OBE
London Councils' Lead Member for Health