

Rt. Hon. Mr Sajid Javid
Secretary of State
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU
18 May 2022

Dear Secretary of State

We watched today's discussions about the rising cost of living at Prime Minister's questions with great interest.

National Voices is the leading coalition of health and social care charities in England. We have more than 190 members covering a diverse range of health conditions and communities, connecting us with the experiences of millions of people.

You will be aware that today the Leader of the Opposition shared Phoenix's story – Phoenix is on kidney dialysis at home and is reliant on a dialysis machine to survive. He usually uses his machine from ten at night until seven the next day, ready to take his daughter to school in the morning.

With the cost of living crisis, Phoenix's family have decided to turn the heating off to save on energy bills. Phoenix feels that as a person with a long-term condition, requiring dialysis at a great cost, he is quite literally being priced out of existence.

While the Prime Minister today said that he believed people reliant on dialysis are being supported with the cost of it – this does not match with what our members [Kidney Care UK](#) hear from people they work with. They hear that it is only some people who have their costs covered, that only some of the costs are covered and that reimbursement is at times given in such a way – months later – that it doesn't help their immediate concerns.

Phoenix's situation is not unique and the issues he experiences do not only apply to people relying on dialysis. In our conversations with members, we have increasingly been hearing about how the cost of living crisis is affecting many different groups of people living with ill health and disability.

Last week, we released a report '[Behind the Headlines: the unequal impact of the cost of living crisis](#)' which outlines just some of the ways that the cost of

living crisis is affecting people with musculoskeletal conditions, cancer, Crohn's and Colitis, kidney conditions, poor mental health and more.

I hope you will agree that people living with ill health and disability should not be pulled into poverty as a result. However, this is the experience of many people our members work with and support.

We would like to meet with you, and to bring Phoenix and our members together to share our insights on how the cost of living crisis is affecting people living with ill health and what can be done to address this. Given the seriousness and urgency of the situation, we would appreciate a rapid response.

With Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ch. Augst". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlotte Augst
Chief Executive
National Voices