

The Rt Hon Dr Vincent Cable MP, 2a Lion Road, Twickenham, Middx TW1 4JQ
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HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Daniel Poulter MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

Sue Waters, 49 Sandycombe Road, St Margarets, Twickenham, Middx TW1 2LR

Sue Waters is one of my constituents and she came to see me at my surgery on 14 December with Carole Atkinson. Both women are involved in Soroptimist International which is a global organisation that works to improve the lives of women and girls. They are members of a local branch which meets in Richmond.

Ms Waters and Ms Atkinson told me that they are promoting a project triggered by the work of Professor Michael Crawford at Imperial College on foetal nutrition and the potentially devastating implications of poor foetal nutrition for pregnancy outcomes and later life. I was told that research indicates the UK performs poorly in the league table of developed countries for dealing with this problem and is currently at No 14. My constituents told me that their branch plans to run a pilot initiative in my local area which is outlined in the attached leaflet and if successful, they would expect it to be rolled out across the UK by other Soroptimist branches.

One of their key aims is to get food and nutrition into the national curriculum and they put it to me very strongly that if young women have the right information about what they need to do to produce healthy babies, then they are more likely to make informed choices. It follows that a healthy and well nourished mother is much more likely to have a healthy baby with improved life chances.

My constituents are keen to raise awareness of these issues and I told them I would write to you to find out if you are aware of the work of Professor Michael Crawford and what coordination is taking place between the DoH and the DfE to make sure the message about foetal nutrition is better understood by young women and mothers to be. I would be grateful if you could get back to me about this and look forward to your response.



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Whilst your MP will treat as confidential any personal information which you pass on, he will allow authorised staff to see the information if this is needed to help and advise you, and may pass all or some of this information to agencies such as the DWP, HM Revenue & Customs or the local council if this is necessary to help with your case. He may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed of related issues that you may find of interest. Please let him know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.