



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From Caroline Dinenage MP  
Minister of State for Care*

*39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU*

*020 7210 4850*

24 January 2020

Dear Geoffrey,

I'm delighted to announce that today, your local NHS Trust, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will be awarded £40,000 funding to install Changing Places and help significantly improve availability of them in hospitals in England.

Changing Places are toilets with extra equipment and space needed by people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and physical disabilities and some older people.

At the moment, there are around 55 Changing Places facilities in NHS hospitals across England. We must change this. No one should have to stay at home or miss hospital appointments due to a lack of accessible facilities.

In December 2018, I announced that £2 million funding would be available for NHS Trusts in England to install Changing Places and since June 2019, Trusts have been able to bid for this funding on a matched basis.

Today, we are awarding the first tranche of funding and over £500,000 will be made available to ten Trusts to install 16 new Changing Places. This is just the start. We still have an extra £1.5 million to award to Trusts right now which we hope will double the number of Changing Places in hospitals across England.

And I am calling for every new hospital being built in this country to include a Changing Place facility in their plans. The Government is also looking at proposals that would add Changing Places toilets to more than 150 new buildings a year, including shopping centres, supermarkets, cinemas, stadiums and arts venues.

As a society we have a duty to make our surroundings as accessible as possible. We can and must do better, and I hope today's funding marks an important step in the right direction so that all disabled people have the facilities they need to live their lives with dignity and independence.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Dinénage'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Caroline' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Dinénage'.

**CAROLINE DINENAGE**