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AGE CONCERN ENGLAND'S RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT ON ELDER ABUSE

Age Concern's Director-General Gordon Lishman said:

"We welcome this Health Select Committee report as a long over due recognition of the issue of elder abuse. Currently the care protection standards for older people do not go far enough and there is inadequate research into the estimated half a million older people suffering abuse. We are an ageing population, and there could be a significant increase in the number of older people reliant on care from others in the future.

"We are heartened that the Department of Health is funding our sister charity, Action on Elder Abuse to establish a national recording system for incidents of abuse and provide an accurate picture of the problem. Given the sheer scale of work involved in identifying and tackling the problem of elder abuse, it is clear that this is the start of a long process. However, the report is a positive indication that tackling elder abuse is firmly on the political agenda."

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