

Social care May 6 2025

Altmann: 'broken social care system needs action not another review'



Ros Altmann has responded to the government's review of adult social care. © Chris McAndrew / UK Parliament

Tara O'Connor



Former pensions minister, Baroness Ros Altmann, has called the latest government review into adult social care “deeply depressing”.

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The new independent commission, announced last week (May 2), will focus on existing funding in local authorities and the NHS.

It will be led by Baroness Louise Casey and phase one of the commission is due to report in 2026.

Altmann said: “The announcement that we are to have yet another commission to review social care is deeply depressing. A huge sense of déjà vu.”

Altmann was involved in the Dilnot Commission review into social care more than 20 years ago.

Altmann, who has been a Baroness in the House of Lords since 2015, said: “After years of promising radical reform, waiting, hoping and even legislating for significant changes, we are back to square one.

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“The system is broken and does not need yet another review. It needs action.”

The former pensions minister said “meaningful reform” cannot take place in the short-term without more funding.

She added that the current system is “unjust and ineffective”, with health problems like dementia not coming under the NHS.

“The burden falls disproportionately on those who are struck by one of the illnesses that don’t count for the NHS,” said Altmann.

“Surely, it would be fairer for everyone to contribute something, along the lines of a national care insurance scheme, so that the costs are spread more evenly.”

Altmann accused the government of kicking the issue into the long grass.

She added: “The announcement of this new commission, with a very long-term time horizon for change, highlights once more that elderly and disabled people really seem to be at the bottom of political priority lists.

“Despite warm words of imminent reforms that will transform our broken system, despite millions of people being denied basic care they need, the issue has been kicked into the long grass once more.”