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Written Answer
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SIZE AND LOCATION OF CARE HOMES

Fabian Hamilton (Leeds North East):

218 To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidelines his Department has issued on the size of care homes. [60554]

219 To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidelines his Department has issued on the location of care homes. [60555]

MR PAUL BURSTOW

The Department has not issued guidance on the size and location of care homes. It is for local authorities, working with providers, to ensure that sufficient numbers of suitable care home places are available to meet the needs of their populations.

Care providers must register with the regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and comply with the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations (2010 SI 2010/781), which include requirements around the suitability of premises. A copy of the Regulations has already been placed in the Library.

Regulation 15 includes a requirement on safety and suitability of premises, which requires the registered person to ensure that service users and others are protected against the risks of unsafe or unsuitable premises.

Regulation 22 requires the registered person to ensure that at all times, sufficient numbers of suitably qualified, skilled and experienced staff are employed in order to safeguard the

health, safety and welfare of service users. In addition, the CQC has the power to impose conditions on registration, which might include restricting the number of service users a service may care for to ensure that services are safe and of an acceptable quality.

If providers fail to comply with the regulations, the CQC may take enforcement action.