

Bim Afolami MP  
House of Commons  
London, SW1A 0AA

08/07/2020

Dear Bim,

I was chuffed to hear you are willing to be a member of the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute Advisory board.

I set up Money and Mental Health in 2016 with the passionate goal to tackle the link between financial difficulty and mental health problems.

We always aim to have a representative of each major party on our advisory panel – and since founding we've had an impressive bunch, who've opened doors, worked together and helped us get important change.

This includes securing a government commitment to [extending the Breathing Space debt respite scheme](#) to people in mental health crisis, and [bringing an end to GPs charges for paperwork](#) people with mental health problems need to get help with their debts.

So we're quite chuffed to have 'bagged' you to join us now, to help us meet the challenges ahead.

What we tend to find is there aren't that many 'bad guys' out there in this area, it's just there are many laws, rules and regulations that didn't consider mental health or money when they should've done.

Of course, in the context of the coronavirus outbreak and ensuing financial crisis, these issues have never been so prominent or important.

I'm looking forward to working alongside you on this in the future. Meantime, our Interim Chief Executive Katie Alpin and her team are always on call to explain our work or discuss what we're doing.

Best wishes,



**Martin Lewis OBE**

Chair and Founder, The Money and Mental Health Policy Institute