I am writing to you as a constituent to ask you to write to our local health and social care tryst to find out what steps they are taking to ensure that all parents who experience pregnancy and baby loss and need specialist psychological support can access it.

None of the Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland could tell the Baby Loss Awareness Alliance that they currently commission specialist therapies for parents who experience a psychiatric illness after pregnancy loss or the death of their baby. The *Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Bereaved parents falling through the gaps in mental health care* report also reveals that 60% of bereaved parents felt they needed specialist psychological support for their mental health, but were not able to access it on the NHS.

The report recommends that Commissioners:

1. allocate sufficient resources for the provision of specialist psychological support for bereaved families based on an assessment of their needs
2. ensure that high quality, specialist services are in place for bereaved parents when they need them
3. incentivise local services to show how they are meeting the specific needs of this small, but vulnerable group through their inclusion in local data sets and performance measures
4. provide clear referral pathways to high quality, effective and evidence-based specialist psychological support.

You can download the full report and a briefing for Northern Ireland here - bit.ly/2Vcowjw

I would be most grateful if you could write to our local Health and Social Care Trust to find out how this support is offered in our area.

I look forward to hearing from you.