

Mrs Kemi Badenoch MP
Leader of the Opposition
Sent by email

Wednesday, 03 June 2026

Dear Mrs Badenoch,

Recent comments on social workers

In response to your recent comments that Conservative MPs should “focus on the big decisions instead of acting as glorified social workers”, we would like to offer a meeting with the British Association of Social Work (BASW) to discuss the role, function and challenges facing social work today. We would also welcome the opportunity to share with you the legislative base of social work and how this legislation is there to act on behalf of government to protect and support on behalf of the state. Social workers face ‘big decisions’ every single day of their working lives by enacting state legislation to protect and provide.

Firstly, social workers are heroes. They put themselves in incredibly dangerous situations to uphold safeguards and protections for the most vulnerable and at risk in our communities. The suggestion that child protection, domestic violence, mental health crises, and protecting adults from neglect, coercion and exploitation are not the ‘big decisions’ is a huge insult not just to the profession, but to all those we seek to serve and protect on behalf of the current government.

Secondly, it is BASWs position that successive governments have substantially underfunded social work services, leaving vulnerable people forced to seek the help of their MPs with issues that you consider as not being ‘big enough’.

We would welcome a meeting with you to share our work, the role and legislative responsibilities held by social workers and hopefully, to amend this perception of social work, with hope to building a fruitful and positive relationship.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Samantha Baron

Interim Chief Executive, and Director for Wales and England
British Association of Social Workers

Contact officer: Kerri.Prince@basw.co.uk