



# Health and Social Care Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From Steve Brine MP

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Letter by email

6 March 2023

Dear Steve,

As you will be aware, the Health and Social Care Committee under my predecessor was pleased to approve the appointment of Dr Henrietta Hughes as the first Patient Safety Commissioner. In our [report](#) approving the appointment, we highlighted the need for Dr Hughes' office to have adequate resources to ensure the success of this new role.

I am in regular contact with Dr Hughes and the matter of resources for her office is something that she has raised with me. She tells me that her office is under extreme pressure, with a significant workload including correspondence from patients. I was concerned to hear from Dr Hughes that she believes her resource is "too little to make the necessary improvements set out in First Do No Harm". I agree with her that, without sufficient resourcing, there is a risk that the role will "let down the hopes of patients that were raised by the publication of Baroness Cumberlege's report".

I know that Dr Hughes has shared her Business Plan with the Department and is awaiting your feedback. I agree with Dr Hughes that her office needs an urgent increase in resources and it is my hope that you will seriously consider the request that she has made.

I would be grateful if you could confirm, as soon as possible, the level of resource for the Patient Safety Commissioner in 2023/24.

Yours sincerely,

**Steve Brine MP**  
**Chair, Health and Social Care Committee**