

Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Restricted: confidential

Prerana Issar

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13 November 2020

Dear Jeremy,

20 October hearing on staff burnout and resilience

Thank you for your letter dated 21 October 2020 and for the invitation to be a witness at the Health and Social Care Committee hearing on 20 October.

As part of my testimony to the committee, I described the work that we set out in 'We are the NHS – People Plan for 2020/21: action for us all' published in July 2020, both in terms of the national and local steps that need to be taken for the rest of 2020/21 to support staff in the NHS and help manage the pressures of COVID-19 through the Winter.

This publication marked the next stage in the ongoing People Plan work programme and was closely followed by the People Promise.

Work is taking place at all levels – nationally, regionally and locally – and with our partners, to monitor the impact of the pandemic on our services and the demand it is placing upon our workforce. This will have a material impact on the demand for and supply of staff over the short, medium, and long term. As a result, we will be updating our modelling to reflect the significant impact that Covid-19 has had on the whole health system, the full effects of which are not known.

As we develop this understanding and associated planning, and once we see the outcome of the Government's Spending Review, including the HEE budget, further actions for 2021/22 and beyond will be set out in detail.

Nonetheless, now more than ever it is critical that we maintain momentum with regard to recruitment and training of new staff, which will be a key component to future restoration and recovery of services. I want to reassure you that we are continuing to work closely with the service to train new doctors, nurses and other critical staff groups to ensure we can deliver the best possible care to patients.

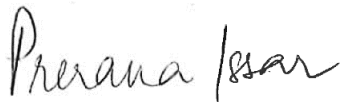
NHS England and NHS Improvement



We are working with Health Education England and other partners to ensure that finance, service, and workforce planning is aligned across the system, and to ensure that the contribution of future workforce supply through education and training is recognised.

By way of this reply I am also attaching our formal responses to the three workforce related questions set out in “Delivering core NHS and care services during the pandemic and beyond” published on 1 October 2020.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Prerana Issar' in a cursive script.

Prerana Issar
NHS Chief People Officer