



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Shona Dunn

Second Permanent Secretary
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0EU
Tel: +44 (0)20 7210 5407

E: second.permanent.secretary@dhsc.gov.uk

Dame Meg Hillier
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

By Email: pubaccom@parliament.uk

6th February 2024

Dear Chair,

Public Accounts Committee Hearing – 24 January 2024

In the hearing on reforming Adult Social Care on 24 January, Sir Chris Wormald offered to write to you on the position of the New Hospital Programme (NHP) with respect to two issues: the schemes included in the NHP; and the current position on funding. Sir Chris has asked me to write to you on his behalf.

List of schemes in the New Hospital Programme

As the Committee is aware, the government's announcement in May 2023 set out that five additional hospitals constructed mostly using Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) would be included in the NHP and rebuilt by 2030, alongside two RAAC schemes that were already in the Programme, protecting patient and staff safety.

Since the May 2023 announcement two small adjustments have been made to the composition of the Programme as detailed below.

The first adjustment is the decision to substitute Christchurch Hospital (the NHP's smallest scheme) with the Alumhurst Road Scheme, which had previously been part of the Ann's Scheme. This followed a change in the Trust and regional NHS's preferred option which saw the Christchurch Hospital Scheme reduced in scope such that it no longer met the definition of a new hospital. Alumhurst Road Scheme will provide expanded new child and adult psychiatric facilities and will now be managed as a separate scheme. This change was approved by Ministers in December 2023 following engagement with the local MP.

The second adjustment, approved by Ministers in January 2024, is the split of the Lancashire and South Cumbria New Hospitals Programme scheme into two schemes to reflect the fact that two separate hospitals are being built: Royal Preston Hospital and Royal Lancaster Infirmary. This change is fully aligned with local and regional clinical strategies and carries the full support of the Integrated Care Board and of local MPs. As these two schemes are currently expected to complete after 2030, the total number of schemes to be delivered by 2030 remains unchanged.

The full list of NHP schemes, and the three mental health hospitals being delivered by 2030 through wider capital funding, is included at **Annex A**.

More specifically, I would also like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the two hospitals raised by Anne Marie Morris MP.

Torbay Hospital is due to be delivered by 2030, and I can confirm that the Government has already provided the scheme with over £6m in funding and fees for the development of business cases and programme teams.

We also remain committed to North Devon District Hospital, now expected to complete after 2030. Up to the end of the 2022/23 financial year, the Government had provided more than £21m in funding for the development of on-site early works and demolition business cases ahead of main construction, as well as for vital key worker accommodation.

Both Hospitals' Trusts are developing their Strategic Outline Cases, supported by the NHP team to ensure that plans meet the needs of staff and patients and that they align with our standardised approach to hospital building.

NHP regularly engages with local stakeholders across all schemes, including site visits, market engagement events, and last summer the NHP held an MP engagement event in the House of Commons. The portfolio Minister, Lord Markham, has also undertaken a series of roadshow events at a range of NHP schemes across the Programme, including schemes expected to complete after 2030, to showcase progress on our national approach to hospital building.

The Department will continue to engage proactively with MPs and Trusts to ensure key stakeholders are kept updated on progress at national and local level and establish regular opportunities for dialogue.

Government position on funding for the NHP

As the Committee is aware, in May 2023 the Government confirmed that it expects to back the NHP with over £20bn of investment. This is part of a multi-year capital settlement where further spend will be subject to confirmation at future Spending Reviews. At the same time, the Government also committed to future health infrastructure being funded through a rolling programme of capital investment, which will secure the building of new hospitals beyond 2030, including the schemes now expected to complete after 2030.

As noted at our recent hearing before the Committee on the NHP, the programme is currently developing a third version of its Programme Business Case (PBC), with a view to agreeing this by May 2024. Once agreed, the PBC will confirm the overall envelope for the Programme, and will include a specific amount of proposed funding for the pre-2030 costs of those schemes that will complete after 2030. We will continue to keep the PAC updated on developments on local schemes, particularly as funding is released for early works or construction activity to begin. All funding allocations for individual schemes within the NHP will only be confirmed once the Full Business Cases for those schemes have been reviewed and agreed by Ministers.

A copy of this letter is also being sent to Rt Hon Steve Brine, Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee, Gareth Davies, Comptroller and Auditor General and to the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shona Dunn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SHONA DUNN
DHSC Second Permanent Secretary

Annex A: List of schemes in the New Hospital Programme

Expected Completion	Scheme Name
By 2030	Alumhurst Road, Dorset
	Brighton 3Ts Hospital
	Cambridge Cancer Research Hospital
	Derriford Emergency Care Hospital, Plymouth
	Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester
	Dyson Cancer Centre
	Hillingdon Hospital
	Kettering General Hospital
	Leeds General Infirmary
	Leicester General Hospital, Leicester
	Midland Metropolitan University Hospital
	Milton Keynes Hospital
	Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton
	National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC)
	North Manchester General Hospital
	Northern Centre for Cancer Care
	Northgate Hospital
	Oriel Eye Hospital
	Poole Hospital, Dorset
	Princess Alexandra Hospital
	Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Dorset
	Royal Infirmary, Glenfield Hospital
	Royal Liverpool Hospital
	Salford Royal Major Trauma Centre
	Shotley Bridge Community Hospital
	Specialist and Emergency Care Hospital Sutton, Epsom Hospital & St Helier Hospitals
St Ann's Hospital, Dorset	
Torbay Hospital	
Watford General, Hemel Hempstead and St Albans City Hospitals	
Whipps Cross University Hospital	
RAAC Schemes By 2030	Airedale Hospital
	Frimley Park Hospital
	Hinchingsbrooke Hospital
	James Paget Hospital
	Leighton Hospital
	Queen Elizabeth Hospital
West Suffolk Hospital	
Expected Post 2030	Charing Cross and Hammersmith Hospitals, Imperial
	Eastbourne District General, Conquest and Bexhill Community Hospitals

	Hampshire Hospitals
	North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple
	St Mary's Hospital, Imperial
	Queen's Medical Centre (QMC) and Nottingham City Hospital
	Royal Berkshire Hospital
	Royal Lancaster Infirmary
	Royal Preston Hospital

Mental Health Schemes to be delivered by 2030 as part of the 40 by 2030 commitment, delivered through wider capital	Abraham Cowley Unit at St Peters Hospital
	Mossley Hill Hospital
	Kingsway Hospital and Chesterfield Royal Hospital