



**Health and Social Care
Committee**

**Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria St,
London
SW1H 0EU**

Friday, 10 January 2025

Subject: Winter Pressures

Dear Wes

As you will be aware, the NHS is under an extremely high level of pressure this winter, due to a high number of flu, covid, norovirus and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases – with the number of people in England's hospitals with flu quadrupling in the last month. You will also be aware that over 14 NHS Trusts have declared critical incidents due to "exceptionally high" demand on A&E and patients being admitted to wards.

Given these pressures, the Committee would appreciate an urgent update from the Government on the steps that it is taking to support the NHS and the broader health and social care system with the exceptionally high levels of demand that they are facing.

In particular, we would be grateful if you could set out:

- What specific immediate additional support, including financial support, will be provided to Trusts that have declared a critical incident?
- Given that Trusts that declare critical incidents can divert staff and funding from other services to acute provision, what support will be provided after the incident ends to mitigate the impact on elective procedures?
- What progress was made implementing the actions outlined by NHS England [in September](#) to prepare for this year's winter pressures?

The Committee would be grateful for a response no later than 27 January, so that we can consider your response ahead of our evidence session with Amanda Pritchard

Yours sincerely

**Layla Moran MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Select Committee**