



**Health and Social Care
Committee**

**Amanda Pritchard
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Tuesday, 4 February 2025

Subject: Work of NHS England evidence session – 29 January 2025

Dear Amanda

Thank you for appearing before the Committee on Wednesday 29 January on the work of NHS England alongside Julian Kelly and Duncan Burton.

During the session, there were several topics where the Committee asked, or you offered, to provide further information on a range of topics:

- Providing the Committee with details of the “factual inaccuracies” in the Public Accounts Committee report on NHS financial stability. [Q5]
- Providing the Committee with a list of ring-fenced spending areas in the new planning guidance and a list of areas where spending is no longer ring-fenced. [Q15]. The Committee would also be grateful if you could set out what steps will be taking to monitor the impact of the removal of ring-fencing funding, including what metrics you will be using to help measure the impact and the service current performance levels using those same metrics.
- What financial impact/benefit that the NHS forecasts would realise through improvements to the better care fund [Q21] and whether you have any plans to increase this funding?
- Your analysis of the impact of greater funding for social care on the NHS [Q22/Q75], and your analysis of bed capacity you would not need to construct if you can deliver improvement on length of stay [Q78].
- What are the major workstreams that the NHS is relying on to deliver the productivity improvement targets set out in the 2024 Spring Budget and what contribution that those targets each workstream is expected to make. [Q24]
- Details and timelines for the current pilots evaluating GP telephone triage. [Q49/50]
- Provide the Committee with details of the modelling that sits behind the waiting list reduction, for both the size of the waiting list and average length, or



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confirmation that the Department is not content for you to share that modelling.
[Q56 - 60]

In addition, there are some topics where the Committee has further questions based on your responses: as well as questions that we did not have time to cover during the evidence session, which we would be grateful for a response to:

- What is the timescale for the appointment of a substantive Director of Transformation? [Q25]
- Can you confirm our understanding from Julian's answer to the question on the additional £10.6 billion that you do not believe this is sufficient to meet the increase cost pressure you will face this year without achieving efficiency improvements? This based on the sum of the pressure you outlined: Pay settlement (£3.8bn) ENICs (£1.6/1.7bn) non-pay inflation (£1.9bn), GP contract negotiation (£0.8bn) and basic demand growth (£3.5bn) giving a total of £11.6/11.7bn [Qs 27/28]
- Can you please provide a timescale for achieving the final 10% update of the Electronic Paper records [Q33/34 and Q39]
- Could you also set out how you will evaluate the effectiveness of the NHS and provide the key milestones in the delivery and deployment of the NHS App, including targets for functionality, roll out with providers and update amongst patients [Q35]
- Can you clarify NHSE's position on the commitment for minimum data-sharing framework and explain what this looks like in practice. [Q 40]
- What steps is NHSE taking to increase uptake of the flu vaccine amongst children and young people [Q72]

Finally, there were some questions that we did not have time to cover during the evidence session, which we would be grateful for a response to:

- How is NHS England ensuring that children's services will receive the attention and resourcing they need in the next Long Term Workforce Plan? What specific action are you taking to secure future of the workforce for children's services?
- NHSE has published guidance on "corridor care". Does this mean that corridor is becoming a *de facto* part of the NHS's operating model? Should we expect to see hospitals using corridor care when it is not responding to winter pressures?

We are grateful for your offer to meet the Committee privately to discuss the NHS planning guidance and would be grateful for a response at least a week before the date of the meeting, when it is set. In any event we would be grateful for a response no later than Wednesday 26 February.



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Yours sincerely

Layla Moran
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee