



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
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Layla Moran MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Select Committee
House of Commons
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13 May 2025

Dear Layla,

I am writing to you, and members of the Health and Social Care Select Committee, to follow up with further detail on mental health spend, as per my commitment made on 8 April.

For context, there are two key spending commitments for mental health:

Mental Health Investment Standard (MHIS) This requires individual Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to increase mental health spend at least as much as their overall allocations grow. This results in at least a constant share of ICB spending going on mental health. All ICB spending on mental health is in scope of the MHIS, including spend on mental health in Continuing Health Care and prescribing which are not included in the share of spend measure.

- I expect all ICBs to meet the MHIS in 2024/25.
- I set out my expectation through this year's planning guidance a requirement for the MHIS to be met in 2025/26 and based on current returns all ICBs plan to do so. I expect NHS England to hold them to account on this.

Share of Spend This relates to the share of total NHS recurrent funding which is spent on mental health each year. This commitment includes national transformation funding for mental health (Service Development Funding or SDF), specialised commissioning spend on mental health and ICB spend except for mental health spend in Continuing Health Care and prescribing.

NHSE spend on mental health as a proportion of overall spend from 2018/19 to the present is outlined in the table overleaf. In 2024/25, share of spend declined because of significant investment in other areas, in particular elective recovery. In 2025/26 there is a further small decline because of further investment by this Government in other areas of care, in particular general practice – which will have secondary benefits for mental health.

I hope this answers your queries.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON WES STREETING MP

Mental Health – Share of Spend table

£bn	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Total Mental Health Spend	9.2	10.2	10.8	11.6	12.63	13.9	14.9	15.6
NHS Recurrent Baseline Excluding Pension	114.6	120.8	127.0	133.3	142.4	153.8	170.2	179.4
Mental Health as Share of NHS Recurrent Baseline (%)	8.05%	8.45%	8.51%	8.73%	8.87%	9.05%	8.78%	8.71%