



Public Accounts Committee

Samantha Jones
Permanent Secretary
Department of Health and Social Care
And Sir James Mackey, Chief Executive Officer, NHS
England

By email

03 September 2025

Further updates on figures regarding Reducing NHS waiting times for elective care

Dear Permanent Secretary and Sir James,

Thank you for your letter of 1 September 2025 which provided the Committee with an update on figures ahead of our evidence session on 11 September 2025 on Elective Care Waiting Times. We would like further clarification on some of the data provided:

- The total number of operational surgical hubs has risen from 112 at the end of March 2025 to a latest position of 120 operational surgical hubs. Our understanding is that these figures include the 47 new hubs funded by the Targeted Investment Fund (TIF), 26 hub expansions (paragraph 2.16 of the NAO report) and also surgical hubs that were set up before September 2022. However, the NAO's report focuses on activity since 2022 and specifically on the TIF-funded hubs. Please could you therefore provide updated data on the TIF-funded hubs:
 - Of the 47 TIF-funded new hubs, how many are now operational? How many are on track to meet their expected patient-ready and in-use date? How many are at risk or off-track?
 - Of the 26 hub expansions, how many are now operational? How many are on track to meet their expected patient-ready and in-use date? How many are at risk or off-track?
- The capital spending does not reconcile with the NAO report. The report states (paragraph 9) that NHS England expected to spend £2.2 billion on diagnostic transformation and a further £1 billion on surgical hubs between 2022-23 and 2024-25. Your note states that you drew down £1.041bn of capital funding between 2022-23 and 2024-25 for surgical hubs. However, this is stated in your Appendix to be contained within the total amount of £1.96bn allocated capital funding drawn down between 2022-23 and 2024-25 to be spent by local NHS organisations on Elective investment. There is no accounting for the draw down of approximately £2.2 bn for diagnostic transformation. Please could you confirm how much capital funding was drawn down for expenditure on diagnostic transformation over this period.



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Please could you provide this additional information as far in advance as possible before the evidence session on Thursday 11 September. I am copying this letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Yours Sincerely

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts

Cc' Gareth Davies, Comptroller and Auditor General