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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
Chair
Public Accounts Committee

By email: pubaccom@parliament.uk

1 September 2025

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter of 5 August 2025, which you sent to both the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England (NHSE). We are responding on behalf of DHSC and NHSE.

Recognising the length of time that has passed since the Comptroller and Auditor General's report was published in March 2025, we are writing to provide you with an update on relevant figures ahead of the hearing on 11 September 2025. These include the number of operational CDCs, operational and off-track surgical hubs, and capital and surgical hub funding.

NHS England publishes performance data in elective care and diagnostics on a monthly basis. This includes the latest data on the referral to treatment standard.

On the date of the hearing, the latest monthly publication of electives performance data will be released, which shows the position as of the end of July. We and the other witnesses may refer to data from June (released on 14 August) and July (released on 11 September). In the event that the Committee wishes to refer to the July data, it will be publicly available from 9.30am on 11 September here: [Statistics » Referral to Treatment \(RTT\) Waiting Times](#).

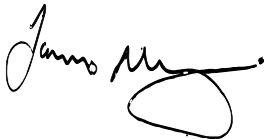
You will find in the appendix to this letter a range of updated figures related to capital projects and funding relevant to elective activity. These are the same as those

requested in line with a separate, previous ask from the National Audit Office (NAO) for updated figures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Jones', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Samantha Jones OBE
Permanent Secretary
Department of Health and Social Care

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Mackey', followed by a large, stylized loop.

Sir James Mackey
Chief Executive Officer
NHS England

Appendix

Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs):

The NAO report into NHSE's Management of Elective Care Transformation Programmes originally quoted that 137 CDCs were operational as of August 2024, out of the 170 which were due to be operational by March 2025. The report also stated 141 out of 170 planned CDCs will be fully operational at their permanent location by March 2025. We now have more up-to-date figures, which we have provided below.

- Number of operational CDCs
 - in August 2024: 165 CDCs live.
 - in March 2025: 169 CDCs live (of which 148 CDCs in their permanent location)
- Number of operational CDCs (latest position):
 - 169 CDCs live – 1 further CDC that was previously delivering activity from a temporary location is temporarily offline until the permanent CDC build is completed (expected December 2025).
 - Of these 170, 154 CDCs live on their permanent site.
 - Of these 170, 98 CDCs operating 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Surgical Hubs:

- At the end of March 2025:
 - 112 operational surgical hubs
 - 28 off-track Targeted Investment Fund (TIF) surgical hubs (includes hub expansions)
- Latest figures (latest position):
 - 120 operational surgical hubs
 - 17 off-track TIF funded surgical hubs (includes hub expansions)

Capital Funding:

- Total amount of allocated capital funding drawn down between 2022-23 and 2024-25 to be spent by local NHS organisations on Elective investment: £1.96bn

Surgical Hubs Funding:

- Actual amount of allocated capital funding drawn down between 2022-23 and 2024-25 to be spent by local NHS organisations on Surgical Hubs (this is a subset of the above): £1.041bn