



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*Karin Smyth MP
Minister of State for Health (Secondary Care)*

*39 Victoria Street
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Layla Moran MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

09 March 2026

Dear Layla,

Thank you for your letter on 19th February following our recent discussion about the Government's proposed Bill to abolish NHS England. I appreciated hearing various issues raised by you and Committee, recognising that this was an introductory discussion about the Bill, and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you between introduction and Second Reading.

You ask if the Department would consider publishing a draft Bill to allow for a period of pre-legislative scrutiny. The imperative to deliver the Prime Minister's commitment to abolish NHS England by March 2027, subject to the will of Parliament, means that we are working to an inherently constrained timetable. Accordingly, we are not proposing to publish draft legislation, but will ensure that legislation receives full and appropriate scrutiny through all the formal parliamentary stages.

When we met, we agreed there would be value in further engagement ahead of the Bill's introduction to Parliament. As you will be aware when the Bill is introduced into Parliament, the parliamentary timetable is set by business managers and so we cannot make any commitments about the period between Introduction and Second Reading. However, I am committed to engaging closely with the Health and Social Care Committee, and to engage constructively with any views and concerns the Committee may have throughout parliamentary passage.

I very much look forward to meeting with the committee following the Bill's introduction.

Kind regards,

**KARIN SMYTH MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH**