



Health and Social Care Committee

Dr Penny Dash
Chair of NHS England

Monday, 7 September 2026

Primary care estate utilisation

Dear Dr Dash

I am writing to you regarding an [article](#) published by the *Health Service Journal* on 1 July 2026.

The article states your claim that the NHS may have “**twice as much**” floor space for GP practices and associated services as it actually needs, referring to this as a “**finger in the air estimate**”. You also stated that NHS England is currently reviewing how space is used to map available capacity across services, including primary care.

I would be grateful for an explanation of the “finger in the air estimate”, including the data sources, assumptions, calculations and analysis that informed it.

Please also provide further detail on how NHS England is reviewing the use of space across primary care, community services and local authority buildings to map available capacity, including the scope of this work, what methodology is being used, the data being collected, and any current findings.

I would be grateful for a reply to this letter by 2 October.

Yours sincerely,

Layla Moran
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee