



Department of Health & Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

POC_1367850

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

19 October 2021

Dear Jeremy,

Chairs of NHS England and NHS Improvement

Lord Prior, the Chair of NHS England (NHSE), has indicated his intention to step down earlier from his appointment, which was due to end in October 2022. He will handover to a new Chair around the end of this financial year, aligned to the creation of the new, merged NHSE being established. Subject to Parliamentary approval, the Health and Care Bill sets out proposals to merge NHSE and the two organisations that make up NHS Improvement (NHSI): the NHS Trust Development Authority and Monitor.

As the Chair of NHSE is on the Cabinet Office list of appointments subject to pre-appointment scrutiny, I would like to invite the Health and Social Care Committee to hold a pre-appointment hearing with the Government's preferred candidate.

We plan to advertise the role in October/November 2021 and conclude the selection process by December. We will prepare to work to a timetable whereby a hearing is held with the Committee in January 2022, if that is suitable for the Committee and if so, I would welcome your report soon thereafter.

In advance of advertising the role, I would welcome the Committee's comments on the role description and person specification (attached separately). If you would like to provide any comments, please do so by 27 October 2021.

I would also like to inform you that in readiness for the conclusion of Baroness Harding's term of office as Chair of NHSI on 29 October, I have invited Sir Andrew Morris, the current Deputy Chair of NHSI, to be interim Chair of NHSI until, subject to the passage of legislation, the new merged NHSE is legally established.

I have copied this letter to the Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and to the Clerk of the Liaison Committee.

Yours ever,

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP