



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

19 August 2022

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 1 July to the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, enclosing correspondence from your constituents about NHS pay. I am replying as the minister responsible for public spending.

The Government greatly values all NHS workers and is grateful to NHS staff for their sustained and extraordinary efforts during the immense challenges of recent years.

At Spending Review 2021, the Government announced that public sector workers will see pay rises over the next three years, including those working in the NHS. The Government has carefully considered the formal recommendations from the NHS Pay Review Bodies for 2022/23 and has accepted them in full.

All NHS staff under the Agenda for Change contract, including nurses, paramedics and midwives, will benefit from a pay rise of at least £1,400 this year backdated to April 2022. This means that the lowest earners, such as porters and cleaners, will see a 9.3 per cent increase in their basic pay this year, compared with last year. The average basic pay for nurses will increase from around £35,600 as of March 2022 to around £37,000 and the basic pay for newly qualified nurses will increase by 5.5 per cent, from £25,655 last year to £27,055. Eligible dentists and doctors will receive a 4.5 per cent pay rise.

Some staff groups were not in scope of the 2022/23 pay award because they are already in multi-year pay deals that were agreed with trade unions. Junior doctors will see an increase to their pay rates of at least 8.2 per cent over the four-years between 2019/20 and 2022/23. The deal also came alongside £90 million of additional investment, providing the most experienced junior doctors with higher pay, increasing allowances for those working the most frequently at weekends and increasing rates of pay for shifts finishing between midnight and 4am. Remits for pay awards in 2023/24 will be set later this year.

The 2022/23 pay award also builds on significant increases in pay in recent years. NHS staff received a consolidated 3 per cent pay rise in 2021/22, despite the temporary pause on pay rises for wider public sector workers earning over £24,000. Over the last 5 years, the non-medical NHS workforce (including nurses and paramedics) has on average received a cumulative pay rise of over 18 per cent and consultants have received a cumulative pay rise of around 15 per cent.

The NHS is a key spending priority and that is why the Government has provided record levels of funding. The NHS resource budget in England is expected to increase to £162.6 billion in 2024-25, up from £123.7 billion in 2019-20.

Furthermore, the Government continues to recognise the importance of workforce growth. That is why the Government committed to spending hundreds of millions of pounds at Spending Review 2021 to continue to grow a bigger and better trained NHS workforce, including some of the biggest undergraduate intakes of medical students ever. This builds on funding confirmed at Budget 2020 to deliver the Government's commitment to 50,000 more nurses. The Government has made substantial progress towards this commitment, with over 29,000 additional FTE nurses and health visitors working in the NHS in April 2022 compared to September 2019.

Please pass on my thanks to your constituents for making me aware of their concerns. I hope this response assures you of the Government's commitment to both the NHS and its workforce.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

RT HON SIMON CLARKE MP