



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From Edward Argar MP  
Minister of State for Health

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

020 7210 4850

PO-1262380

The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
By email to: [george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk)

28. iv. 2021

Dear *George*,

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 October to Matt Hancock on behalf of a number of your constituents about NHS funding. I apologise for the delay in replying, which has been caused by an unprecedented volume of correspondence throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

I read the correspondence with care and appreciate your constituents' concerns. The NHS is the Government's top domestic priority. £63billion of funding has been made available to health services in the 2020-21 financial year to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, and £29billion has been committed for 2021-22.

NHS hospitals have been supported through temporary changes that simplified the financial arrangements under which they normally work, freeing them up to devote maximum effort to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

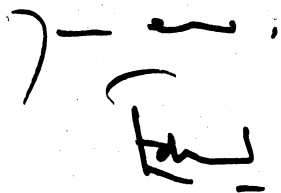
For the first half of 2020-21, all NHS providers were allocated a guaranteed level of income, based on their expected costs, and were able to claim reimbursement for any extra costs arising from dealing with the pandemic. Since October, a revised financial framework has been in operation that retains the simplified arrangements. For the second half of 2020-21, HM Treasury has agreed £2.7billion more funding to support local NHS organisations. Additionally, the Spending Review included a £3billion support package to help the NHS recover from the impact of COVID-19 and £6.6billion of new funding to support the ongoing response, continuing funding for the hospital discharge programme, infection control measures, 'long COVID' services, and NHS staff support services.

The Government will continue its pragmatic approach in 2021-22, for example by providing further funding to make vaccines widely available and to cover costs incurred by the NHS through its continued response to COVID-19.

In addition to the COVID-19 funding, the NHS will see its day-to-day spending rise by £33.9billion in cash terms by 2023/24 in support of the *NHS Long Term Plan*, with this additional funding set in law under this Prime Minister in the NHS Funding Act. The extra money means the NHS will receive £350million more a week by 2023/24.

I am also pleased by the recent investment in the St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. The Trust recently received £2.8million to upgrade the A&E at Whiston Hospital, as part of our £450million investment programme. This is in addition to £4million of Sustainability and Transformation Partnership funding previously awarded to the Trust to improve the hospital's Emergency Department capacity and flow.

I hope this reply is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Argar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**EDWARD ARGAR MP**