

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17th May 2018

Dear Commitment,

RE: NURSES PAY.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of NHS pay.

I believe that the passion, commitment, and specialist knowledge of our NHS staff is part of what makes our NHS so special. I recognise that staff morale is vital to maintaining staff commitment to services.

I fully support the Government's mission to make the NHS the safest, highest quality healthcare system in the world. There are over 14,000 more nurses on our wards since 2010 and over 52,000 nurses in training. The Government recently committed to increase nurse training places by a further 25 percent - the largest ever increase.

How we value and retain our staff is critical, and I am very happy to say that the Government has announced that it will fund a new pay rise for NHS staff, worth over 6 percent over the next three years. This will benefit not just nurses, but all staff on the Agenda for Change pay scale. This is supported by over £4 billion of new investment, which the Chancellor pledged to spend, in addition to the existing NHS budget, in the 2017 Autumn Budget.

The Department of Health has engaged in productive discussions with NHS trade unions, NHS Employers, and the Treasury to best establish how to increase productivity in the NHS, as it is vital that any increases in investment in the NHS represent value for money for taxpayers, and contribute to a more efficient NHS, in a time of ongoing pressure on public finances.

Concerning pay awards in recent years, you may be aware that the NHS is one of the few public-sector workforces that receive annual incremental pay progression. Around half of staff on Agenda for Change (AfC) contracts receive incremental pay of around 3 percent on average. For example, a typical qualified nurse can expect seven years of pay progression averaging around 3.8 percent a year, in addition to annual pay awards. This means pay rises, in addition to the previous 1 percent headline award, have been received, although I appreciate that this may not reflect your own circumstances.

I appreciate that housing and travel costs in London can be a barrier to recruiting and retaining the nurses and other key workers the NHS needs in that part of the



country. The reward package for AfC staff that work in and around London includes High Cost Area Supplements. The Department of Health is also considering how best to take account of the housing requirements for NHS staff, particularly in high-cost areas to support permanent staffing.

To help support NHS staff in their duty of care, the Government has committed to increase NHS spending in England by at least £8 billion in real terms by the end of this parliament. By cutting bureaucracy and championing higher standards, Ministers have ensured this money goes on frontline care and not administration.

I am proud the NHS has once again been rated the best healthcare system in the world, something that is only possible thanks to the dedication and hard work of all NHS staff, supported by a strong economy.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes

Tom

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

*Having argued the case for pay rises for
NHS staff and others, I am delighted that
this is being delivered.*