



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

6th November 2020

New Commitment,

RE: NHS PAY

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of NHS pay; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

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 mission to make the NHS the safest, highest quality healthcare system in the world. There are over 14,000 more doctors and over 13,000 more nurses on our wards in the past decade.

How the NHS values and retains its staff is critical and I was encouraged when a deal was agreed in 2018 ensuring a 6.5 percent pay rise for over one million NHS workers on Agenda for Change (AfC) contracts over three years.

Ministers set aside £800 million to support the deal for 2018/19, and the Government's long-term funding settlement for the NHS, which will provide increased funding of £33.9 billion per year by 2023/24, is funding the pay rise over the remaining two years. Those on the lowest salaries in the NHS are seeing some of the largest proportionate pay rises: the lowest NHS starting salary has increased year on year from £15,404 to £18,005 in 2020/2021. Many nurses and healthcare assistants are receiving pay increases of at least 2.5 percent.

NHS staff are clearly playing an integral role in the national effort to combat Coronavirus - and we owe them all a great deal of gratitude for all that they do, which is no doubt making an enormous difference to so many people. The efforts of all those working on the frontline have been tireless, unwavering and dedicated, and I am immensely proud of our incredible NHS staff around the country, as we all are as a community.

I know the Government is committed to supporting all NHS staff now and in the future. Its unwavering support for frontline staff predates this unprecedented challenge. In addition to the 6.5 percent pay rise over the three years, the starting salary for newly qualified nurses has also increased by more than 12 percent and the Government has introduced a nurses' bursary which provides at least £5,000 of additional support to nursing students.

I also fully support the Government's announcement of a pay rise of 2.8 percent, backdated to April 2020, in line with the recommendations of the independent pay review body, for dentists and doctors. Paramedics are also receiving up to 11 percent increases.



These pay rises are an important acknowledgment of the commitment and hard work of staff throughout this difficult time and I understand that the NHS Pay Review Body, covering AfC staff, will return to making recommendations for next year's pay awards, which I will certainly follow closely.

I note in your correspondence, however, that you want to see a specific immediate pay rise made to all NHS staff and you have asked me to share your views on this directly with the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which following your correspondence, I have duly done today.

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**