



Department
of Health

From the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health

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The Rt Hon George Howarth MP
By email to: george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

23 OCT 2017

Dear George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 28 September on behalf of a number of your constituents about the capped expenditure process.

This Government has committed to increase NHS spending by a minimum of £8 billion in real terms by 2020/21 and for the first time to deliver an increase in real funding per head of the population for every year of the Parliament.

As with all public services, however, local NHS areas need to live within the budget agreed. Otherwise, they effectively take up resources that could be spent on other NHS services. The provision of quality, safe and improving patient care can only be guaranteed in a financially sustainable system.

As part of their financial planning, NHS England and NHS Improvement have therefore been running a process to look at how a small number of areas could do more to balance their financial plans, as many already have. Their proposals involve patients and staff, placing patient safety and constitutional rights at the heart of decision-making. We believe that it is important that these plans are consistent with constitutional standards on waiting times and patient choice. We also believe that it is right that the NHS should consider efficiency savings, such as reducing delayed transfers of care or reducing running costs, to improve patient care overall.

Your constituents, or you on their behalf, may wish to raise their concerns directly with NHS England and NHS Improvement. The contact details are overleaf.

NHS England
PO Box 16738
Redditch B97 9PT

Email: england.contactus@nhs.net

NHS Improvement
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

Email: enquiries@improvement.nhs.uk

I hope this reply is helpful.


JEREMY HUNT