



Department of Health & Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
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Dear colleagues,

I wrote to you four weeks ago to explain that I understood the concerns and financial pressures facing general practice, and that I was committed to addressing them.

Since that letter, I have carried out a thorough review of the NHS budget for 2025-26, including the funding going to each sector. I have had to make some very difficult choices. Despite the £22 billion black hole this Government was left with, I wanted to ensure we take the first steps towards the shift to care in the community I have promised. This uplift to general practice reflects my commitment to bring back the family doctor and put general practice at the heart of the neighbourhood health service.

The funding uplift for general practice is normally announced with all the other contract changes following consultation with the General Practitioners Committee of England (GPC England). This consultation is about to begin, but in discussion with Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer (Chair of GPC England), we've both agreed that it was important to provide reassurance to general practice that the proposed contract uplift reflects Government's strong commitment to support the sector. We also wanted to reassure recently qualified GPs who are employed via the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) scheme that I announced earlier this year that they will continue to be supported through the scheme next year. There will also be other proposed changes to the contract to bring about important reforms, the details of which will be announced, along with more details on the uplift and ARRS adjustments, following consultation with the GPC England in 2025.

I can confirm that the funding uplift we are proposing for general practice in 2025–26 will be £889m, representing a 7.2% cash growth (estimated at c. 4.8% real terms growth). This is the largest uplift to GP funding since the beginning of the 5-year framework and means we are reversing the recent trend with a rising share of total NHS resources going to general practice.

The Prime Minister has been clear that there can be no funding without reform. This uplift will enable us to drive forward important reforms to benefit the profession and patients. We are determined to slash through bureaucracy by cutting targets, increasing flexibilities in ARRS recruitment and taking forward measures identified by the Red Tape Challenge, which will report in the new year. Our proposed changes also push harder on preventing the biggest killers, incentivise improvements in continuity of care (in particular for those with long term conditions), and will support the rest of the system to cut waiting lists and achieve the government's plan to meet the NHS standard of 92% of patients waiting no longer than 18 weeks for elective treatment by the end of this Parliament.



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There will always be trade-offs to consider, but allocating more resource to general practice is particularly important to me as improving general practice is critical to fixing our NHS, building a neighbourhood health service and getting our elective waits down. The actions I am taking reflect our dedication to increasing the share of funding for general practice, while laying the groundwork for long-term reform.

I trust I can bring you along in this journey with me, moving past collective action and setting into motion a trajectory to a brighter future for general practice and the wider NHS.

We look forward to working closely and constructively with the GPCE as we consult with them on the detail of all the proposed changes. The outcome of those discussions will be communicated in the New Year in the usual way.

In the meantime, I would like to thank you and your teams for all your hard work and wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON WES STREETING MP