



Department of Health & Social Care

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

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Dear colleagues,

Following the Autumn Budget announcement on 30th October, and the increases to employer national insurance contributions (ENICs) and national living wage (NLW), I want to reassure you that I have heard the concerns you have raised both directly and through your representative bodies.

Fourteen years of neglect has left general practice suffering under the burden of a range of pressures and challenges that are getting in the way of what I know you come into work to do every day – provide the best care possible for your patients. On my many visits to GP practices in recent years I have witnessed firsthand the day-to-day reality of these challenges, and I am resolute in my determination to work with you to tackle them over the coming months and years. The NHS may be in the midst of the worst crisis in its history, but it is only by working together that we'll get out of it.

I have already taken the first steps to fixing the front door of the NHS. We have started hiring an extra 1,000 GPs, provided general practice with one of the biggest core funding increases in recent years and launched a Red Tape Challenge to get rid of unnecessary bureaucracy, so GPs can spend less time filling in forms and more time caring for patients. This is just the start, and I am determined to go further.

General practice is, and always will be, a highly valued member of the NHS family and will be at the heart of our plans to reform the health service and deliver a neighbourhood health service. I want GPs to help shape the Ten-Year Health Plan and the next decade of reform, as we shift resource into primary care and community services over time to deliver more care outside hospitals. I know that maintaining the stability of practices in the short term is essential for realising these ambitions.

The Government took tough decisions to fix the foundations in the public finances at the Autumn Budget. But I want to be clear - we still have decisions to make across the Department about how funding is allocated across the NHS, and I am working rapidly to finalise the funding envelope for general practice in 25-26.

I would ask you and your colleagues to bear with me as we undertake this work and please be reassured that general practice remains a priority for me and for this government. We will be back in touch soon with more clarity on funding arrangements.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to thank you once again for the tireless work you put in, day in, day out, to care for your patients. We have a historic opportunity to revitalise general practice and I want to seize this working with you in partnership.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON WES STREETING MP