



Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer

By email

12 November 2020

Dear Chancellor

We write as the membership organisation for England's acute hospital, ambulance, community and mental health providers with all 216 Foundation Trusts and Trusts in membership.

On 11 March 2020 you made a personal commitment to the House of Commons that "whatever extra resources our NHS needs to cope with coronavirus – it will get... whether it's millions of pounds or billions of pounds... whatever it needs, whatever it costs, we stand behind our NHS".

Today's NHS data release shows that the NHS is facing two major, new, COVID-19-generated pressures. We are seeing a rapidly growing elective surgery backlog and a deeply worrying surge in demand for mental health services. It is vital for the health and wellbeing of the patients concerned that the NHS addresses this backlog and extra demand as quickly as possible.

We understand that the current public expenditure position is difficult. We understand, albeit reluctantly, that you will not, at this point, want to reopen the NHS Long Term Plan five-year revenue settlement announced in June 2018. But we hope you understand that these are urgent, new, problems that were never envisaged in that settlement.

Despite previous investment, acute hospital trusts need more diagnostic and bed capacity, and mental health trusts need more treatment capacity to address these problems. Trust leaders are deeply concerned that if the spending review fails to allocate the extra money to fund this capacity in 2021/22, the health and wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of their patients is at risk. Many of those patients have already waited too long for treatment. They should not be asked to wait any longer.

NHS Providers

One Birdcage Walk, London SW1H 9JJ
020 7304 6977

enquiries@nhsproviders.org
www.nhsproviders.org
[@NHSProviders](https://twitter.com/NHSProviders)

Today's data demonstrates how well the NHS can perform when it is given the support and resources it needs. Acute hospitals have met the very stretching September elective surgery recovery target you set them. Operational data shows that this level of performance has been maintained in October, despite the pressure from large numbers of new COVID-19 patients. Mental health trusts are treating record numbers of mental health patients resulting from the COVID-19 crisis.

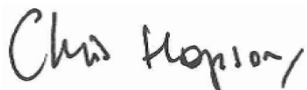
But trusts need more support in 2021/22 to meet these new COVID-19-generated challenges. And, if they are to address these problems at the speed required, they need any extra funding confirmed on 25 November in your Spending Review announcement, so that they can plan ahead.

We are therefore making a direct public request to you, as you finalise your Spending Review, to meet the pledge you made to the House of Commons and allocate the extra £3-4 billion involved. We trust that the NHS Spending Review bid, and your ongoing conversations with the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England and Improvement, will provide you with further detail on what is needed.

Investing in NHS resilience and capacity has a further crucial benefit. It will help reduce the potential risk of further lockdowns and consequential adverse economic impact, given the dangers of a third phase and subsequent phases of COVID-19.

We are releasing a copy of this letter to the media.

Yours sincerely



Chris Hopson
Chief Executive



Saffron Cordery
Deputy Chief Executive

Tel: 020 7304 6805

Email: chris.hopson@nhsproviders.org