

Chair, Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell Chief Executive, Niall Dickson CBE

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP Prime Minister of the United Kingdom 10 Downing Street London SW1A 2AA

26th July 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER

We are writing to request a meeting with you or one of your advisors to discuss social care reform and a number of issues affecting the healthcare sector.

We were encouraged by your commitment to tackle the social care crisis during the leadership election. In March, we established Health for Care - an alliance of health organisations at national level to make the case for a sustainable, long-term funding settlement for social care in England. For more than twenty years successive governments have failed to address this challenge, but there is now a chance for decisive action. We would be keen to support both an immediate recognition of the current crisis and a bold move to establish a cross-party solution to deal with the fundamental reform that is so badly needed. We very much hope you will regard this as a potential legacy issue – it is certainly one your predecessors have conspicuously failed to grasp.

Following the publication of the NHS Long Term Plan for England and the funding settlement, the NHS has begun a decade-long journey towards an integrated health and care system focused on population health. The plan envisages greater investment in community, primary care and mental health services, as well as more emphasis on prevention. However, the funding settlement specifically excluded capital, training and public health investment without which implementation of the plan will be in jeopardy.

The biggest single challenge facing the health and care sector is now workforce – the NHS has more than 100,000 vacancies. Some of this is in the hands of the service itself, but it will also need commitment and support from government and NHS England and Improvement. Again, during the leadership campaign, you referred to the mounting pension crisis which is leaving senior NHS staff with massive tax bills and is already forcing many to refuse extra shifts and even to quit the service. In short, the impact on patients is already being felt and will grow as we head into winter. Once again this will require bold and decisive action - we would welcome urgent engagement on this with the Treasury.

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On Brexit, we have been keen to make sure that whatever happens, patients here and in Europe do not suffer as a result of changing arrangements, and we have been working closely with government departments to bring this about here as well as with European organisations, to encourage the Commission to recognise the potential implications for patients across the continent. We are particularly anxious to make sure that we protect the medical supply chain, honour reciprocal healthcare agreements and establish a migration system which supports social care and health.

We would be delighted to discuss these issues further with your advisory team and, given the urgency, would welcome a meeting in the coming weeks to talk them through in more detail.

We have also attached a manifesto for health and social care which sets out the challenges and solutions to tackling the issues facing the NHS, which has been produced by the NHS Confederation and its networks who in all represent 500 healthcare organisations in the NHS, voluntary and independent sectors.

Yours sincerely,

Niall Dickson

Chief executive, NHS Confederation

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Julie Wood

Chief executive, NHS Clinical Commissioners

Danny Mortimer

Chief executive, NHS Employer

David Hare

Chief executive, Independent Healthcare

Providers Network

Sean Duggan

Chief executive, Mental Health Network